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Kent on Sunday

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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

North&West edition No 656

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

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Tory contests seats 200 miles apart

Fights in Kent and
South Wales

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Thought of who to vote for? Then think again...

THINK politics and it is hard to shift your view from the House of Commons and the cut and thrust of political debate and barbs of a typical prime minister's questions.

But once you shift away from the baying mob at Westminster, you find the next significant tier of politics a rather different animal - yet in many ways no less significant to our lives.

However, the divide along party lines disintegrates at some point as you stretch away from Westminster, and while ideologies still underpin the thought processes, they are very much parked to one side in favour of a 'what's best for our community' approach.

You probably know this, but the reason I mention it is that many of our local seats are simultaneously up for election in addition to the general election. And, as a result, it is impossible to separate our views on the major political parties



Editor **Chris Britcher**

and their performances and where we put our cross.

But the local councillors deserve your time to do just that. Separate the parties, and concentrate on the people, the individuals who want to spend their spare time, unpaid, helping to enhance their community.

Because at a local level it is far more about working together and outside of the political tribes for the common good and that takes a certain type of person to be able to work like that.

To park their traditional colours and think about the impact each decision they make will have on the people among whom they live and work. It's a far more personal and direct service.

So, consider your MP choice - but don't forget to pay heed to your local election options too when you make that decision.

Enjoy your weekend.

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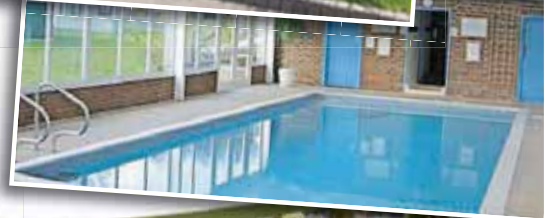
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Tory fights for two seats on May 7: 200 miles apart

EXCLUSIVE by Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

A CONSERVATIVE candidate has confirmed he is simultaneously fighting to be re-elected to a Kent council - while also fighting to be elected to Westminster in a constituency more than 220 miles away.

On May 7, Ed Hastie, 30, is defending his seat for Goudhurst and Lamberhurst on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council which he first won in May 2011.

But he is also challenging to be elected to Westminster in the safe Labour seat of Neath in south Wales.

And that has prompted an angry reaction from fellow councillors in the Kent town. David Neve, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats said it was "totally out of order".

He told KoS: "He shouldn't even consider it. What is your priority - the local people or not?"

"If he was standing as an MP somewhere in Tonbridge, or Sevenoaks then maybe it would be okay, but come on."

Cllr Hastie insists he has no hope of securing both seats, however, admitting it would be "a miracle" if he secured enough votes in Wales to over-turn a dominant Labour majority. He is almost certain to be

returned in Tunbridge Wells though.

The former seat of Labour minister Peter Hain, who has just stepped down, his replacement will be defending a nigh-on 10,000 majority and is likely only to be pushed by Plaid Cymru. The Tories came fourth at the 2011 election.

Speaking this week, Cllr Hastie told KoS: "Realistically, were we to come third it would be a miracle."

"I don't think there's really much of a chance of being elected but it's up to the electorate to decide."

"I was only selected very recently. I haven't been out campaigning as much as you would need to."

However, in what will be a blow to local voters, he said were he to win in Neath he would have to move from Kent to south Wales, thus prompting a by-election for his seat if he triumphed in the local election too.

Adds Lib Dem's Mr Neve: "You are putting the people at risk because you could be costing the council money by forcing a by-election. How can you give all you would need to, to both campaigns?"

Cllr Hastie concluded: "I am out in Goudhurst and Lamberhurst all the time, going out and canvassing people."



DOUBLE: Fighting on two fronts, Ed Hastie, has two targets on polling day, May 7.

Parents discover fate of primary school places with first choices rising

ALMOST 86 per cent of children got their first choice primary school this year, according to figures released this week from Kent County Council.

And that's up 427 on last year, with a further 7.3 per cent of children being given a place at their second choice school.

The figure will come as good news to many who feared a real squeeze on school places due to a rise in the number of children reaching primary age. KCC has always insisted it has planned sufficient capacity for the rise.

Applications have grown for the eighth consecutive year to 17,415. That's a rise of 321 from 2014.

Patrick Leeson, KCC's corporate director of education, said: "Our schools admissions team has been working hard, as usual, to ensure that as many pupils as possible get a school from among their preferred choices and we are pleased to see that the number of both first and second choices has increased."

However, that still means 724 children, or just over four per cent of those who applied, were allocated a place that wasn't chosen by them.

Mr Leeson said: "We will not lose sight of the fact that four per cent of pupils have not been given a school from their preferences. While many will secure places through waiting lists and reallocation, I am aware that this will be a difficult time and we will do all we can to offer a good outcome."

"Local authorities across England face significant challenges because of a lack of primary school places. In Kent, however, the combination of good forecasting, careful planning, and close working with schools means we are able to sustain a high proportion of children starting at a school of their preference. We are also creating hundreds of additional places - both for the start of the academic year 2015/16 and from September 2016."

Parents should all have been notified of their child's school place by post, email or online by Friday.

£1.5m fraud funded lifestyle of holidays, cars and watches

A TRICKSTER who defrauded a Government-funded education organisation out for more than £1.5 million to fund a lavish lifestyle of luxury holidays and sports cars, was this week convicted.

Timothy Springett, 41, of Whinfell Avenue, Ramsgate, tricked LearnDirect into paying him the cash over four years to provide 2,150 educational courses to

under-skilled or unemployed Kent residents. But none of the students existed, and instead Springett pocketed the cash for himself.

He was found guilty at Canterbury Crown Court this week of conspiracy to defraud, money laundering and two charges of cheating the public revenue. He and three other men will be sentenced on May 26.

Terrorism suspects arrested on Good Friday face charges

THREE men from Birmingham who were arrested at the Port of Dover on Good Friday have been charged with Syria-related terrorism offences.

Gabriel Rasmus, , Anas Abdalla, and Mahamuud Diini, appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court on Friday.

The group of men are alleged to have tried to leave the UK in order

to travel to Syria to join terrorist group the Islamic State.

Another two men who were arrested at the same time are no longer suspected of terrorism offences. However they are now under investigation by immigration authorities. A woman who was arrested with the group has been released, and told she will face no further action.



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Tears for part in honey-trap gambler killing

LEONIE Granger wept as she was found guilty of luring professional gambler Mehmet Hassan to his death after setting a honey-trap for him.

The 25-year-old care worker from Gillingham deliberately targeted 56-year-old Mr Hassan, after she met him in a Mayfair casino.

Granger saw Mr Hassan with a roll of £50 notes at the

casino, before deciding to try and set a trap to rob him, with help from her boyfriend and another accomplice.

Once Mr Hassan took Granger back to his home, the mood changed and she let accomplices Kyrron Jackson and Nicholas Chandler into the Islington property. He was kicked to death. Granger was found guilty of manslaughter at the Old Bailey.

Big beasts unleashed as parties race to win South Thanet battle

By Maria Chiorando

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AS the campaign to win South Thanet heats up, big beasts from two of the main contenders are flocking to the seaside in droves.

Support for Conservative candidate, Craig Mackinlay has come in the shape of top Tory brass, Theresa May, and former leader of the party Iain Duncan Smith.

Mr Duncan Smith, the work and pensions minister, made his way to the constituency on Friday (April 17) to help launch Mr Mackinlay's 'promise to pensioners' campaign.

Home secretary Theresa May took the day trip earlier in the week to support Mr Mackinlay, who is fighting Ukip party leader Nigel Farage, and local councillor and Labour candidate Will Scobie for the seat.

While in the area, Ms May told KoS it was a 'two horse race' for the seat between the Conservatives and Ukip.

That was something which an-



MINISTER: More visits likely

gered Labour's Mr Scobie.

He told KoS that the seat was open for Labour to win, saying it looked likely to be a 'photo finish' come election night.

Mr Scobie said: "With the latest

polling showing that just two percentage points separate the three parties, South Thanet is every inch a three-way marginal.

"It looks set to be a photo finish between Labour, Ukip and the Tories."

The Labour candidate is also getting significant central party support, shuttling in his own big beasts in the form of campaigning Guardian journalist, Owen Jones, Hackney MP and shadow health minister Diane Abbott and former Liberal Democrat peer, turned grassroots Labour supporter, Lord Oakeshott.

In a sign of the importance of the seat to the Conservative Party, during her visit Ms May unveiled the Tory national ad van campaign.

Despite saying it was a straight competition between Ukip and the Conservatives, Ms May would not be drawn on whether a win for Mr Mackinlay would spell the end for Ukip after Mr Farage said he'd stand down if not elected.

Instead she simply said: "Parties must make their own decisions about their future."



PLANS: Park will create 27,000 jobs

Paramount consultation dates revealed

THE developer behind plans for the multi-billion pound London Paramount Resort, has announced it will be holding ten new consultation events across Dartford and Gravesham.

The events will shed a little further light on the ambitious scheme for a former cement works on the Swanscombe peninsula. It will feature a theme park plus a host of other facilities and hotels. It is hoped it will create 27,000 jobs.

London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH) will hold the events between April 29 and May 14, and will invite visitors to view the emerging masterplan, a range of new transport options and a scaled model of the park.

The consultation events will be the fourth held by the developer, and gives LRCH the opportunity to hear the public's views on the proposals. Plans for the park are likely to be submitted to the secretary of state later this year, under the National Significant Infrastructure Project planning rules, which could speed up permission for the development.

Fenlon Dunphy, on behalf of LRCH, said: "The amount of interest and engagement that we have received over the last ten months has been hugely encouraging and we are looking forward to being able to show the local community how the proposals have evolved."

Author Patterson to give bookshop money

AN independent book shop in Herne Bay has been told it will receive part of a national grant pledged by bestselling author James Patterson.

A Bundle of Books, in Bank Street, received the grant from the author in the second round of allocations after his pledge to donate £250,000 to independent book shops in June 2014.

It was the only store in Kent to get the funding.

Manager Ellie Addenbrook told KoS the amount of funding they were going to get hadn't been decided yet, but that they already had plans for the cash.

She said: "We're hoping to use the money to pay for an author to go into one of the local schools to run a session for the children.

"As a specialist children's book shop, we know how important books are for youngsters. Books open up a whole world for children, sparking imagination, creativity and interest in the world around them. Reading really is such an important part of setting children up for the future."

Fresh push to boost food cash funding

COUNTY food and drink champions Produced in Kent has partnered with the University of Kent in a bid to get new Government investment in the county.

It comes as part of a South East Local Enterprise Partnership (Selep) scheme which aims to secure funding of £1.2 billion.

The scheme is hoped to help accelerate growth in jobs and house building until 2021. One of the strands of the Selep's bid was to ensure the food and drink industry is recognised for the contribution it makes to jobs and growth.

Edwyn Martin, of Produced in Kent, welcomed the University's involvement, which will see Professor Andrew Fearn, of the University's Kent Business School advise the group.

Mr Martin said: "It is very encouraging to see that the University of Kent and Produced in Kent have already been working on these ideas for more than a year. This is to be welcomed and shows how pro-active the Garden of England is when it comes to developing opportunities in the food industry."

Jail after biting chunk out of victim's neck

A THUG who broke the ribs of a stranger, assaulted a woman and then bit a chunk out of her partner's neck has been caged for over two years.

Danny Davis, 29, of Sandwich Close, Folkestone, had been drinking on July 12 2014, when he approached two women he knew in Ashford High Street. He began arguing with one of them, before pushing her over and kicking her. He then approached a man who had been speaking to the women, pushing him over and causing him to break his ribs which punctured a lung.

He then went to a friend's house where he assaulted the same woman. After he was thrown out of the house, he then bit a chunk from the woman's partner's neck.

When interviewed by detectives, Davis claimed to have no memory of the night's events.

He was jailed for 32 months when he appeared at Canterbury Crown Court.

He admitted GBH; assault by beating; assault occasioning ABH; and sexually assaulting a woman.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Final chance to sign up to vote on May 7

THE deadline for registering to vote ahead of May's general election closes in on Monday - your final chance to ensure you get the opportunity to have your say on the future of this country.

The way to register for voting for this election has changed, so rather than a family registering everyone,

you have to do so individually to ensure you are on the electoral register.

To do so at this stage, the easiest thing to do is simply to go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote - if you have your National Insurance number to hand, it will allow you to complete the process even quicker.



And remember, if all those who failed to vote at the last election all registered, it could turn every seat in the county into one fiercely contested by all the parties.

Runners on their marks, as they get set for race

HUNDREDS of runners from across the county will be getting ready to take on the London Marathon challenge.

This year is likely to be a bit special for runners, as it's the 35th anniversary since the race first began.

Many of those running will be taking on the 26 mile race

for Kent based charities, with hundreds expected to do the marathon wearing fancy dress.

Tim Branchett, of Ashford, is running for charity.

The 28-year-old will be racing for 'Bliss, the baby charity' after it helped his family when his daughter was born prematurely.

...also

Cabinet meeting held

DOVER District Council holds a cabinet meeting on Friday in the council chamber.

Among the items on the agenda will be Dover Leisure Centre and consideration of issues arising from the overview and scrutiny committees.

Health check services

SPECIALLY trained staff will be at Westwood Cross from 10am to 4pm looking out for signs of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, on April 25.

It is part of a mobile health initiative to help people access health check services.

A249 works to begin

WORK on the A249 Sheppey Crossing is due to begin on April 24.

It will be closed over four weekends while 'vital resurfacing works' are carried out, according to the Highways Agency.

The work is due to end on May 31.

Learning about victims

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes will be meeting with Swale Action to End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA) on April 24.

Mrs Barnes will be hearing about the support services they deliver to victims.

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Race track near Chatham sold for 'undisclosed sum' to former F1 and bike world champion Surtees

Race track near Chatham sold for 'undisclosed sum' to former F1 and bike world champion Surtees

MOTORSPORT legend John Surtees this week concluded a deal to snap up the popular Buckmore Park race circuit - and revealed he has plans to broaden the scope of the go-karting track.

The racing superstar, 81, has been part owner of the circuit in recent years which has been run by long-time owner Bill Sisley since the mid 1980s.

But in a deal for an undisclosed sum, the business and assets have been acquired by John Surtees Ltd, the driver's business based in Edenbridge.

Mr Sisley will continue to stay on at the circuit as a consultant.

Speaking to KoS this week, he said: "I've been doing the same thing since I was 17-years-old. It's definitely time to pass the park on now, and hopefully see it flourish. I've given the circuit a huge amount over the years, regularly working 70 or 80 hours a week, and now it's time to get a bit more balanced.

"I haven't seen my family, my wife of 40-years, and my grandchildren as much as I would like, so now I'm looking forward to spending a bit more

time with them.

"Everything in my life has been sacrificed to karting, so now it's about moving on and making sure life is a bit more balanced."

The circuit, at the top of Bluebell Hill near Chatham, regularly attracts 150,000 visitors annually - lured in by the chance to race karts of various speeds around its challenging course.

It remains a popular stop-off for talented young drivers moving up through the ranks.

Its claim to fame is that it saw the likes of Formula One champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button race there as children, and has even played host to visits by the likes of Princess Diana and her then two young sons, William and Harry.

Mr Surtees told KoS his plans included building on relationships with local education establishments but said he was keeping immediate plans under wraps.

He said his team had been speaking with Kent County Council on projects which they could partner on but wanted to "build the foundations" before pushing things further forward.

He said: "The track plays a very important part in the area, both for corporate events and for engaging and

interesting young people. That is something I'm eager to build on.

"There are an immense number of peripheral jobs around motorsports, not necessarily within it, but which it could lead to.

"I'm not talking about creating racing drivers, but giving children something to be really interested in, and a passion which could help them build something else."

Mr Surtees remains the only world champion on both two and four wheels and has a long history of involvement at the circuit, first visiting when his son was young.

He explained: "I first went to Buckmore when Henry, who was around seven-and-a-half at the time, got interested in racing. He went there, and that was the first place he told me that was what he wanted; to be a racing driver. It was amazing seeing that in him, the passion to race."

Henry Surtees fulfilled his dream and climbed through the ranks before tragedy struck during a Formula Two race at Brands Hatch. A freak accident saw the 18-year-old hit by a stray tyre in 2009. He died later that day.

His grief-stricken father has subsequently set up the Henry Surtees



YOUNG: Lewis Hamilton in 1996



PROUD: John Surtees

Foundation, a charity to help raise funds in his son's memory.

He told KoS the foundation will play a key part in moving forward.

He said: "The most important thing for a person in life is for youngsters to have the drive to do something, to get emotionally involved. That's something I'm hoping to be able to bring to the track.

"Obviously my thoughts are partly tied in with developments with my charitable foundation, and I'm hope-

ful we can do more with children there with education, and with road safety."

Mr Sisley, now 62, says he is looking forward to finally taking something of a backseat at the circuit.

He said: "It's the end of my career in many ways, and it feels like a natural progression to me.

"I've worked closely with John for over a decade, since 2003, and it makes sense for him to be the man to buy the park.

Change Lives... Find out about fostering.

Advertisement Feature



Fostering is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster carers means that more committed foster carers are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster carer think that the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward - who were foster carers themselves - and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent, London and The Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.

A national shortage of foster carers means that children who

cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding - and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.



Mary Cattell, an ex-carer herself and now Manager of the Chatham office, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly. We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, call into Next Step Fostering's Chatham office, at 85 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EE.

Alternatively you can call the Chatham office on 01634 838666 and speak to a member of their friendly team or visit their website at www.nextstepfostering.org

Change your career, change a life. Call 01634 838666 or visit www.nextstepfostering.org





HISTORY OF BUCKMORE PARK

BUCKMORE Park first came into being back in 1963 when it came to life as a 400m track built as part of an Army engineering exercise.

Owned by local businessman Cecil Whitehead, a keen supporter of the Scouts, he wanted to give the youngsters the chance to get involved in the fast-growing world of karting at the woodland site the Scouts were leasing.

He called on the help of the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham to build it.

It became a popular venue, but by the mid-1980s fell into disrepair before Bill Sisley took over in 1985 and transformed its fortunes.

He expanded it and built facilities to complement it and allowed it to embrace various age groups and corporate events.

As a consequence, in 2003 saw the opening of a £1.25m multi-function clubhouse sparking a period of growth and constant revenues.

"He has much more financial clout than I do, and is going to be able to get things done which I couldn't. He has some really amazing plans for the track, wanting to open an education centre.

"He's also got great contacts as

well, and knows everyone who is going to be able to help in the motorsports world."

Although Mr Sisley said he was unable to talk about the money involved in the deal, it is understood that it was profitable for him.

Mr Surtees added: "It's great that Bill is staying on, as he's got a tremendous amount of knowledge and will be able to help as we start to carry forward our plans."

Believed to be one of the busiest race circuits in the UK, the circuit

holds the distinction of being where F1 team boss Ron Dennis first spotted a young Lewis Hamilton as he competed in the 1996 Champions of the Future event at Buckmore.

John Surtees won seven world championships for the MV Augusta

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Perfect weather conditions all set to deliver a mouthwatering crop

Maria Chiorando looks at how the county looks ready to serve up a delicious crop of strawberries

YOU know summer is just around the corner when a deep red fruit starts to emerge - and the good news is this year could see the county's most delicious crop of strawberries yet.

With superior growing conditions, as well as the introduction of new varieties, producers say they are expecting a bumper season.

Alastair Brooks is the proprietor of Langdon Manor Farm near Faversham - and an award-winning strawberry grower.

"The crop is not going to be as early as last year," he says. "But that is no bad thing."

"Warm days and cool nights are needed to get the right flavour, as sugars are created at night - that's the key to growing the best berries."

"The plants are looking really good. Last year, we had the warmth, but didn't have the cooler temperatures."

"We are getting very close though, and are picking the first batch this weekend."

Kent retains a stronghold on the nation's strawberry crop, with over 50 per cent of the UK's total yield grown in the county. Traditionally, the best berries usually make an appearance in June, but the season spans April to September.

The first Kentish strawberries will be on the shelves this weekend at Macknade Fine Foods in Faversham. Managing director Stefano Cuomo says: "They are one of our most popular products."

"Local is a real buzzword in terms of food, but quality is always more important."

"Luckily there is a rich farming culture around here. What a lot of peo-

ple don't realise is that farming ability plays a large role in the quality of food."

"It's not just about planting a crop - the way the farmers cultivate it will have an impact."

Marion Regan works at Hugh Lowe Farms near Maidstone - one of the country's most famous farms with a long-standing arrangement to provide the fruit for annual tennis tournament Wimbledon.

Its deal with the All England Lawn Tennis Club provides it maximum publicity and ensures it is a Kent fruit which forms the sporting extravaganza's world famous strawberries and cream dish.

"It's not just the farmer's input," she explains.

"It is everyone who works with that crop. Planting day is probably our most important day - with several million crops being planted - and all by hand."

"Our skills are constantly evolving, and we benefit from research - we are always hungry for new ideas. Places like East Malling Research (see box) come up with new methods to make crops better."

There are many different varieties of strawberries available on the shelves - and there are various reasons for this.

She explains: "We are growing around eight different varieties. This includes about four early season varieties, three later ones, and a premium berry, called the jubilee."

"The premium berry has a remarkable flavour, but it's not easy to grow - it can be temperamental. We think this is because it puts all its energy into its fruit."

"It doesn't yield as well as other types, so it requires more skill to cul-

tivate.

"So you don't want to put all your eggs in one basket."

"Also, growing different varieties is partly to spread the season - different varieties suit the different microclimates on the farm."

Mr Brooks is also producing eight different types.

He says: "Our main variety is the sonata, which is very popular. But this year, for the first time, we will be growing Elizabeth berries, which have massive potential."

"They are equal in quality to our award-winning jubilee, and are a step change in early season varieties, with a stronger flavour and good size. They are big, but not too big."

Mrs Regan adds: "We are growing a couple of new varieties this year. Most exciting is the Malling Centenary, which was developed at East Malling Research. It is a quintessentially English berry - it has a very good flavour."

"Some of the imported fruits don't always have the real aroma and taste, but these are classic, an improve-

ment. They will be available in late May."

In terms of choosing the right berry, Mr Brooks says: "The first thing is the visual - people look for a plum, red berry, with a bright calyx [the green leaf at the top]. The next thing is the aroma."

"You should let the berries warm up out of the fridge, rather than eating them cold. That way you will reap the full benefits of the flavour and smell."

"The texture should be firm but succulent, and there needs to be a balance of sweetness and acidity in the flavour."

Mr Cuomo from Macknade's adds: "When you are buying berries in a shop like ours, rather than a supermarket, there may be more discrepancy in size - while the larger supermarkets will be more choosy about the fruit being uniform, we are mainly looking for taste."

"We are always looking to find the highest quality foods from our Kentish producers."

The arrival of this year's strawber-



LOCAL: Berries will hit the shelves

ry crop will also kick-off the pick-your-own season as local farmers and producers open their gates to allow visitors to take to the fields and pick their own fruit.

COULD THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE LIE IN FUNGHI?

ACCORDING to scientists at East Malling Research, an agricultural research centre, inoculating plants with a type of fungus means strawberry growers may be able to maintain yields and reduce irrigation inputs by up to 40 per cent.

Louisa Robinson-Boyer is a plant interactions biologist at the centre.

She has been leading the research into how the fungus, known as 'arbuscular mycor-

rhizal funghi' (AMF) could be used. "AMF is not a new thing," she explains.

"It has been around for billions of years."

"There are lots of benefits - of course less water is needed for growing plants, but the fungus also helps the plant with nutrient uptake as well."

This research could be particularly useful for growers in Kent, because of the high proportion of fruit growers.

"We are hoping this is the future of crop growing," she says. "Should AMF be used in agriculture, there could be enormous benefits."

"Working with these fascinating fungi has great potential to address some of the future food security challenges being raised by climate change," she says. "This work will greatly assist with future sustainable food production - maintaining yields whilst reducing inputs."



TRAGIC: The musical tells the story of soldiers who gave their lives

War heroics take to West End stage as youth pay special tribute

The Dreamers was a huge hit when it premiered in Tunbridge Wells and will shortly be making its London debut. **Molly Kersey** spoke to one of the writers about the heartbreaking story at its core

AMID all the anniversary events to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, one of the key objectives was to ensure you youth of today learned the lessons so cruelly sculpted during such a blood thirsty conflict.

So a musical which unites one of the county's most defining tragic moments, penned by two young musicians, both under 30, and performed by a young, local cast, and all played out on a West End stage is one which had delighted many critics.

The Dreamers had its premiere at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells and in June makes its West End debut at the St James' Theatre.

The musical has been penned by James Beeny, 29, and Gina Georgio, 24, both local musicians from the spa town.

It focuses on the story of a local true-life hero who led his men to the battlefields of Gallipoli in Turkey - one of the conflict's most infamous battles.

Captain David 'Reggie' Salomons, lived just on the outskirts of the town in Southborough.

He died on the HMS Hythe ship after it was struck by another vessel, a tragedy that ripped through the Tunbridge Wells community - with a huge number of soldiers from the area perishing and many families suffering terrible losses.

Hoping to raise awareness of those who gave their lives in the conflict and the families they left behind, the production uses music and screenings to engage audiences.

"It's a more contemporary look at a topic," said writer Mr Beeny. "We didn't know what to expect, but every show we were really grateful that we received a standing ovation."

Mr Beeny and Ms Georgio's band, The Virgin Soldiers perform on stage

alongside a cast of 20 men and women, from all over Kent and Sussex, with on screen narration from stars Amanda Redman, Christopher Beeny and Sir Tim Rice.

And at the heart of the musical is heroic Reggie.

"He was from a well known family in the area," adds Mr Beeny. "His great uncle was the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London, they were a very well respected family."

The brave captain led his men to the battlefields of Gallipoli in 1915.

It was a disaster for the British and Allied troops.

The British had decided to launch an expedition to take the Gallipoli Peninsula, with Constantinople as their objective.

They were hoping that by doing this they would eventually be able to connect with the Russians and overthrow the Turks.

They were anticipating they could also try and persuade the Balkan states to join the Allied forces.

The battle proved unsuccessful, resulting in damage, severe losses and costly counter-attacks, with the War Council deciding to end the campaign in late 1915.

It was during this campaign that Captain Salomons gave his own life trying to save his men, when they were involved in a tragic accident.

Just 40 minutes from the coast of Gallipoli, the men of the Third Field Company were on the HMS Hythe.

Writer James Beeny said: "It was 8pm and when they were on enemy waters they turned out the lights on the ship because they didn't want to be spotted."

This resulted in disaster, and the ship was hit by a much larger Royal Navy ship in the darkness.

The HMS Hythe suffered hugely, being practically torn in two.

But Captain Salomons refused to leave the sinking ship and save himself.

"Within ten minutes the Hythe had gone down and 156 men were killed, and that included Reggie," Mr Beeny explained.

"His last words were 'I will not leave the ship until I see my men saved'.

"He handed his life jacket to a man who couldn't swim. He couldn't swim either, which makes it even more tragic."

When the ship was first struck, an eyewitness account details how the two vessels held on to each other so that some 50 men and a number of officers could clamber across on to the other vessel.

But despite being warned to climb over himself, Captain Salomons' fear for the safety of his "beloved boys" saw him remain there to help them.

Some 128 men from Kent died, with

many on board being from a regiment drawing heavily on many from Southborough, and most of them could not swim.

Had the men set off a day later, they would have been included in the War Cabinet's decision to stop sending troops to Gallipoli.

"A letter was discovered in Hastings that had been sent from Reggie's senior officer to his father, telling him how he had been killed," said Mr Beeny.

"We got in touch with the historian who found it and he came on board as our historical advisor."

Mr Beeny and Ms Georgio stumbled across the story whilst writing a song for The Virgin Soldiers.

"We wrote a single song initially but thought his story was so dramatic there was no way one song could do it justice," Mr Beeny said.

"This was happening throughout

the First World War. He was a hero among others, they were all heroes."

Captain Salomons was only in his thirties at the time of his sacrifice.

Mr Beeny said the play had engaged people from "both sides of the spectrum", young and old.

"Having a live band definitely helps to engage kids. The main thing we tried to get them to do in the show was to look at their friends now and imagine if something like this happened, and the massive effect it would have on all of us."

And the writers have learnt a lot during the process too.

"We both went through a real journey of heightened awareness of the First World War and we hope other young people in particular will have that too.

"We have learnt to connect to it in our own way. It's so important to remember."

BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI

A lack of secrecy meant the Turks were warned about the advance on Gallipoli, which contributed to the downfall.

Plans were made to land on five beaches at Cape Helles, at the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The Turks had small parties defending the beaches and the Australian and New Zealand landings were made on April 25.

They became confined to a small beach head that became known as Anzac.

The main Allied forces landed on V and W beaches.

At W beach there were severe losses and the men at V beach were also subjected to failure.

The campaign never recovered from these initial failures.





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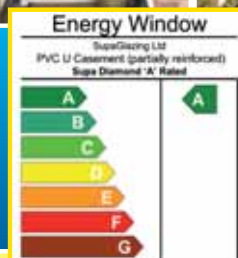
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Why pregnant women are still smoking



Figures show Kent is bucking the national trend, with one in six pregnant women in the county smoking. **David Powles** and **Molly Kersey** find out more on why the numbers are on the rise.

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A STARK health warning has been issued to women in Kent after it emerged that one in six in the county continue to smoke during pregnancy.

An analysis of government figures for the past 18 months has revealed that despite all the health warnings smoking during pregnancy is on the rise in the county - bucking the national trend.

Analysis of statistics for 35,000 pregnancies in Kent and Medway between April 2013 and December 2014 found that 13.8 per cent of pregnant women were unable to kick the habit.

And in the area covered by the Swale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), that figure rose to a staggering 20.3 per cent - that's more than one in five.

It was 17.9 per cent in Medway and 17.3 per cent in Thanet.

Of major concern to health chiefs will be the fact that the countywide figures for 2013 to 2014 were 13.9 per cent, but rose to 14.1 per cent for the last three months of 2014.

The national average is 11.7 per cent.

However, the figures have at least fallen from a decade ago, with the then Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust area recording a 24 per cent smoking at delivery rate - that's almost one in four mothers.

And health officials in the county are working hard to help expectant mothers make the decision to quit.

Public health specialist at Kent County Council, Deborah Smith said: "Smoking is a huge risk

for the mothers.

"We know that smoking while pregnant can contribute to the premature small birth size of babies and also to the number of babies that are still born per year. Smoking can also contribute to miscarriages.

"In childhood, there are risks of children developing respiratory problems as well that can result in wheezing and asthma."

Director of public health for KCC, Andrew Scott-Clark added: "It can affect the size of the baby and the maturity of the baby when it is born.

"That can result in babies being born prematurely and having to be nursed in intensive care units. There's some evidence that there are more heart defects in babies that are born to mothers who smoke."

Ms Smith believes that the number of women smoking while pregnant can be due to misunderstandings about the damage it can do.

"It may be that they feel as though there are other circumstances that would negate these risks," she said.

"We have looked at insight work with mothers and it shows some who might believe that the fluid around the baby might be protecting them from the harm of smoking while pregnant, and some say that the dangerous chemicals go into their lungs and don't hurt the baby.

"Some of the women were quite surprised about the actual harm and how the chemicals from smoking could get into the blood stream.

Continues on page 16

oxygen lungs **nicotine** carbon monoxide delivery cigarettes heart **smoking** pregnancy blood

Percentage of pregnant women known to be smokers at time of delivery

(Using NHS area figures for the period April 2013 to December 2014)

Swale	20.3%
Medway	17.9%
Thanet.....	17.3%
South Kent Coast	15.7%
KENT AND MEDWAY	13.8%
Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley	13%
ENGLAND	11.7%
Ashford	10.6%
Canterbury and Coast.....	10.6%
West Kent.....	9.7%

How smoking affects your baby in the womb

The lungs

When you smoke you breathe in **more than 4,000 chemicals from the cigarette**. The smoke goes from your lungs into your bloodstream. That blood flows to your placenta and umbilical cord, right into a baby's body. This can cause a baby to struggle for oxygen.

Tips to stop...

Think about changing the habits which you normally associate with smoking, and plan ahead if you know there are situations where you would be very tempted to smoke.

Get rid of any cigarettes you have the day before.

The heart

One of the chemicals found in cigarettes is carbon monoxide, a dangerous chemical that gets into your bloodstream.

This can restrict the supply of oxygen that's essential for a baby's healthy growth and development.

How smoking affects your newborn baby

A baby's body is completely dependent on their mum's, so if someone smokes throughout pregnancy, their baby may go through nicotine withdrawal once born. Smoking while pregnant also increases the risk of a baby dying from cot death by at least 25pc.

Tips to stop...

Decide on a day and stick to it. Think about whether it would be better while you are at work, on a weekend, when you are out a lot of the time or visiting someone who doesn't smoke.

Tips to stop...

Take it one day at a time and reward yourself for success.

Source: nhs.uk/smokefree and nct.org.uk



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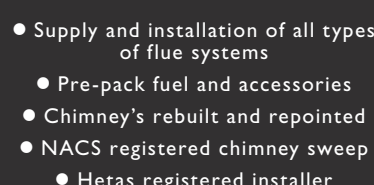
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CONCERNS: Some women do not seem to be aware of the dangers smoking can cause.

Continued from page 14

"We are keen to dispel the myths and get those correct messages out."

Hazel Cheeseman, director of policy at ASH (Action on Smoking), said there are often two main contributory factors to women being more likely to smoke through their pregnancy.

She explained: "Experience shows us that places of high deprivation and with young women who are pregnant are often the areas where the figures are higher.

"A big reason for people continuing to smoke is the community around them. If someone's friends and family smoke it might make it harder. People may feel uncomfortable and worried it looks like they are criticising their friends who may have smoked while

pregnant.

"And evidence shows that if your mother smoked while pregnant you are likely to do the same.

"And of course the complexity of people's lives is often a factor. If you are a teenage mother, for instance, that bring lots of complexities and smoking may be a way of coping with that."

Ms Smith agrees.

She said: "Some of the beliefs that people have about how and when it's safe to smoke are entrenched in their local family and community setting.

"Some people have said 'my Mum smoked with me and I was alright, therefore it could be okay'."

Kent Community Health Stop Smoking Services (KCHT) help people in Kent to quit the habit, and the Baby

Clear programme works with mothers to help them stop smoking.

It is an opt-out service, so people will automatically be signed up to it and will need to say if they don't want to continue going, rather than needing to register for it themselves, which has proved very effective.

"The Baby Clear project is being implemented by health visitors, midwives and family nurse partnerships," said Ms Smith.

Midwives will carry out tests to determine if someone is smoking.

"That will identify the level of carbon monoxide that's in a patient's lungs and if that level is high that is likely to be due to smoking, and the midwife will have a conversation with the patient about smoking while pregnant and the dangers of that," Ms

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

The debate over smoking while pregnant was back in the public eye in recent weeks after research suggested the harmful effects may be reflected in the facial movements of mothers' unborn babies.

Researchers at Lancaster and Durham universities said that through observing 4D ultrasound scans, they found that fetuses whose mothers were smokers showed a significantly higher rate of mouth movements than the normal declining rate of movements expected in a foetus during pregnancy.

Nationally, the percentage of women smoking at delivery has fallen over the past decade from 15.1 per cent in 2006/07 to 11.7 per cent for the 18 months from April 2013 to December 2014.

The greatest success has been in London where the majority of boroughs now have a



smoking rate of below 10 per cent, which experts at ASH said was due to a combination of factors such as a high proportion of women from ethnic groups where smoking is not prevalent, people becoming pregnant when older than elsewhere and increased awareness and publicity.

Traditionally, places in the north of England have had the worst figures. The latest stats showed NHS Scarborough to have a smoking prevalence at delivery of 26.3 per cent.

Smith explained.

And they will be able to sign post people towards services that can help them quit.

"Statistically group methods have got a high rate of success but I think that individuals tend to prefer one to one, face to face help, and the service can offer either of those," said Ms Smith.

■ For more information about services available in Kent visit www.kenthealthandwellbeing.nhs.uk/stop-smoking.

University College London is currently evaluating the design and content of SmokeFree Baby - a smoking cessation smartphone app that is designed to help pregnant women cut down or quit smoking.

It is looking for participants who are 18 and over, pregnant and currently smoking cigarettes at least once a week. Participants will be reimbursed with a £30 Marks & Spencer voucher for 30 minutes of their time.

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CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

Charlie Elphicke (Con)
Clair Hawkins (Lab)
 Sarah Smith (Lib Dem)
Jolyon Trimmingham (Green)
 David Little (Ukip)

Starboard seat to swing back to port?

Sarah Linney continues our constituency round-ups

THERE may be blue birds over the White Cliffs of Dover - but there isn't any guarantee that there will be a blue MP.

There probably will - Charlie Elphicke's majority of 5,274 is hardly insubstantial, and no great swing to Labour is expected nationally. But it is the smallest majority in the county, and Dover - Labour from 1997 to 2010, Conservative before that - is a seat that often moves with the times. So goes Dover, the political experts say, so goes the country.

Mr Elphicke, who has held the seat since 2010, must know this. "I'm not complacent; I'm fighting for every vote and am out morning, noon and night making my case to people," he said.

He says his tenure has attracted £500 million of investment into Dover for a variety of regeneration

projects, including the Hadlow College development at Betteshanger, the demolition of Burlington House and the regeneration of Dover town centre, the Western Docks and the area around the old Marine station.

"The reason those things are happening is because we pushed them through," Mr Elphicke said.

"Unemployment in this constituency has nearly halved under us, and there have been 3,000 new apprenticeships since 2010. We have also reformed zero hours contracts - and the new Dover hospital will provide so many more local services."

Another huge issue is Operation Stack - and lorries in general. The world's busiest passenger port sees more than 5,700 trucks come through it each day, dominating the main A20 through Dover.

"I have put in hard work calling for debates in Parliament and making the case for improvements, and the Highways Agency is now putting in a new system that will keep lorries out of Dover when the port is too full to take them in," Mr Elphicke said.

"They have to stop and wait on the A20 before Western Heights, and they are only allowed to travel in the left hand lane - they can't overtake."

Ukip candidate David Little, however, says he thinks there has been little positive change since 2010.

"There is no regeneration. Millions of pounds has been sunk into the white elephant that is the Dover Town Investment Zone, which was supposed to have shops, restaurants and a cinema - not one brick has been laid," he said.

"The Connaught Barracks development hasn't happened; the promised

redevelopment of the port and extra jobs have not happened.

"Immigration has put such a strain on public services. There is a primary school here where more than 25 different languages are spoken. How do we start to educate those children? It is not fair to any of them.

"It puts enormous pressure on GP appointments, A&E and wages too."

Labour candidate Clair Hawkins named jobs, wages and zero hours contracts among her main issues, and proposed council licensing of landlords to ensure rental properties are kept in good condition.

"The Tories are getting rid of the exclusivity clause [where employers can give someone a zero-hours contract but demand that they do not work for anyone else], but that's not far enough," she said.

"We need to make sure that people who are working regular hours are entitled to a regular contract after 12 weeks if that's what they want.

"People should also have sufficient notice of the work they are going to get, and be entitled to compensation, as sometimes they turn up for work and are told there is none available.

"We have to make sure people aren't exploited by employers who aren't paying minimum wage. I don't think there are enough people enforcing the minimum wage and making sure people are entitled to work. We'd recruit 1,000 more Border Force staff, and we need to ensure that employers aren't recruiting overseas."

She says councils, businesses and ordinary people should work together to ensure regeneration happens in a way that people are happy with.

"I think we can make a lot more of



tourism," Ms Hawkins added.

"Small, independent businesses need to thrive too - there's a focus on bringing in big companies, but not really supporting local businesses.

"We should also be looking at wind, tidal and solar power."

Operation Stack is another major issue, with Mr Elphicke, Mr Little and Ms Hawkins favouring lorry parks and Ms Hawkins also proposing a low emission zone - where vehicles with emissions over a certain level would be charged for coming into Dover.

But Lib Dem candidate Sarah Smith had an even more innovative idea to get the lorries out of town: build a tunnel, with its entrance at Aycliffe, to take traffic to the port.

"A wall of HGVs divides Dover from the seafont along the A20, and it is a massive blight on the town. You have to make a pretty nasty journey to get to the seafont," Mrs Smith said.

"Once the tunnel was built I would plant trees, widen the pavements and have more crossings. We could have a lovely boulevard along Townwall Street with lots of trees and greenery. "I would also widen the A2, as 80 per cent of the port traffic comes through the town. If Dover is to truly regenerate, it has to be a lovely place to live."

She says she would also be demanding that a 'fair share' - a third or half - of the £45 million raised through the foreign lorry levy introduced last

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Dover:

2010

Charlie Elphicke (Con)	22,174 (44%)
Gwyn Prosser (Lab)	16,900 (33.5%)
John Brigden (Lib Dem)	7,962 (15.8%)
Victor Matcham (Ukip)	1,747 (3.5%)
Dennis Whiting (BNP)	1,104 (2.2%)
Mike Walters (Eng Dem)	216 (0.4%)
David Clark (Christian People's Party)	200 (0.4%)
George Lee-Delisle (Independent)	82 (0.2%)

Majority 5,274 (10.5%)

2005

Gwyn Prosser (Lab)	21,680 (45.3%)
Paul Watkins (Con)	16,739 (35%)
Antony Hook (Lib Dem)	7,607 (15.9%)
Mike Wiltshire (Ukip)	1,252 (2.6%)
Victor Matcham (Independent)	606 (1.3%)

Majority 4,941 (10.3%)

READY:
 Charlie Elphicke



FIGHTING: Lib Dems' Sarah Smith

Continued on Page 20

April was invested in the town.
“The regeneration of Dover is key to jobs, investment, infrastructure and transport,” Mrs Smith added.

“I want to see us attracting more employers and start-ups, and I would be calling for an enterprise zone in the Western Docks – for maritime businesses such as engineering and logistics firms – and the Betteshanger Sustainable Development Park. We could become world leaders in the type of logistics and engineering we specialise in – importation of things which have to be moved quickly.”

Green Party candidate Jolyon Trimmingham has been prevented from door-to-door campaigning by a family crisis, but branch co-ordinator Sarah Gleave outlined their policies.

“We are an anti-austerity, low-carbon-future party,” she said.

“Living wage jobs are needed.”

The Greens are also proposing a tunnel, but above ground, and an extra freight track in the Channel Tunnel funded by redirecting money from the Thames Garden Bridge or HS2.

“There are many beautiful but dilapidated buildings in Dover, so we’d create jobs through a social housing programme which would renovate them. Let’s ensure we keep the beautiful area of outstanding natural beauty around Dover,” Ms Gleave added.

The party is also in favour of an EU referendum, EU reform and caps on bankers’ bonuses, and opposed to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

“We have fierce sympathy for people who feel fewer jobs and a bigger labour force cause wages to be com-

KOS PREDICTS...



Ukip’s rise may have long since slowed from a sprint to an asthmatic crawl, but its influence here is likely to be key in determining Charlie Elphicke’s future.

It’s hard to see past a Tory victory, but Dover is the sort of seat where the issue of immigration will have an influence and it could cut his vote. It won’t deliver a Ukip victory, but it could allow Labour to claw it back...expect this still to stay Tory, however.

pressed,” Ms Gleave added.

“We believe in fair controls on immigration, but EU migrants pay £20 billion more in taxes than they take in benefits, and are not the reason for gaps in healthcare, schools, and social care. These can adequately be funded from the £120 billion of unpaid tax.”

Clark set for return ticket to Commons

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

GREG CLARK could run naked down the Pantiles, goose-stepping and wearing a swastika armband, and he’d still get in.”

That’d be Tunbridge Wells, then. Independent candidate Graham Naismith’s assessment just about sums up a constituency where only the Tory, the whole Tory and nothing but the Tory stands a chance of getting in.

Greg Clark, who has represented the constituency since 2005, sits on a majority of 15,576. Even at its lowest,



CAMPAIGNER:
Greg Clark

CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

- Greg Clark (Con)
- Kevin Kerrigan (Lab)
- James MacCleary (Lib Dem)
- Marie Jones (Green)
- Colin Nicholson (Ukip)
- Graham Naismith (Independent)

in the 1997 election, when Tony Blair swept to power, the Tory majority here was still 7,506.

Yet there was shock on the Conservative-controlled borough council in 2012 when leader Bob Atwood was ousted by Ukip’s Piers Wauchope, now the North Thanet parliamentary candidate, by just 46 votes. Proof that a small number of votes can make a difference – and change is possible.

Mr Clark’s list of issues he would like to tackle if he wins a third term include improvements to the A228, quicker treatment for people with mental health issues, aircraft noise, flood defences, and a fully operational 24-hour stroke unit at the hospital.

“The dualling of the A21, which I have campaigned for, started this

month, and my next campaign will be to get it dualled between the Blue Boys roundabout and the Lamberhurst bypass,” he said.

“I’ve helped reinstate some train services that were cut for the London Bridge work, and in the next Parliament there will be no inflationary rise in train fares. We also need more flexible tickets for part-time commuters.”

Green candidate Marie Jones raised the cost of both buying and renting housing and woeful public transport provision, with buses to some villages running just every two hours.

“I tried to employ an apprentice in my business, and one of the biggest problems was that they couldn’t get here or back,” Ms Jones said.

“I would like to renationalise trains and buses, and I would certainly try to negotiate with the bus companies.”

She says better public transport would alleviate the parking and traffic problems in the town centre – and wants to see efforts to improve living standards nationwide to ease pressure on housing in the south east.

Labour candidate Kevin Kerrigan says the party’s national policies – including an extra £2.5 billion a year for the NHS and an end to the bedroom tax – would benefit local voters.

“The NHS is a big issue locally. Up

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Thursday 30th April	Bluewater (Opposite Lower Winter Garden food court entrance) Greenhithe, DA9 9ST	10am - 9pm
Friday 1st May	British Legion Greenhithe London Road, Greenhithe, DA9 9EJ	4.30pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday 5th May	Princes Park Stadium Darenth Road, Dartford, DA1 1RT	4pm - 8pm
Friday 8th May	St Botolph's Church Hall The Hill, Northfleet, DA11 9EU	11am - 3pm
Saturday 9th May	Swanscombe Leisure Centre Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP	2pm - 5pm
Monday 11th May	Dartford Civic Centre Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR	3.30pm - 7.30pm
Tuesday 12th May	Northfleet School for Girls Hall Road, Gravesend, DA11 8AQ	4.30pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday 13th May	Eastgate 141 Springhead Parkway, DA11 8AD	4pm - 8pm
Thursday 14th May	Gravesham Civic Centre Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU	3.30pm - 7.30pm

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KOS PREDICTS...

Should you be a fan of the safe bet, then sell the house, the kids and the kidneys and put it all on Tunbridge Wells remaining until Tory control by the early hours of May 8. Fortunately, however, Greg Clark is a good MP and has made some significant interventions on key local issues. It may be disheartening to rivals, but it's impossible to see past a true blue victory here.



to 20 per cent of people wait in A&E for more than four hours, and there has been poor leadership at Pembury," he said.

"Since the Coalition came to power season ticket fares for local commuters have risen by 22 per cent.

"All the tiers of local government here are run by one party, and there's a complacency. Look at the Royal Victoria Hall – the council are pushing on with their own plans despite what the community thinks. If people are elected to represent you they should work with you to decide what is best."

For Ukip candidate Colin Nicholson, the biggest issue is development.

"I would vote against all development on greenfields and in conservation areas," he said.

"If you are going to build 20,000 houses in the borough by 2026 there will be a strain on schools and hospitals. We haven't the infrastructure."

Liberal Democrat James McCleary names traffic as a major issue and says more cycle paths and a nationwide review of train fares are needed.

HISTORIC: Kent's most famously Conservative constituency, Tunbridge Wells will, it's safe to say, stay Tory

"I get school places a lot on the doorstep. People who live right next to schools often have to drive to one ten or 20 minutes away - which adds to the traffic in the town," he said.

"The Lib Dems started the petition to get the old cinema site demolished, and we are now campaigning to get something built there."

Independent Graham Naismith wants to empower the public to help tackle low-level crime like littering, make people who are caught littering three times clean the streets, and provide tax relief for parents who educate their children privately.

"I can't win, but people like me grab votes that the other parties want

and that's what changes politics," Mr Naismith said.

"The Greens and Ukip won't get in, but they are the reason we are debating things like the environment and Europe. Every vote for me is a vote the Tories will try to win next time.

"There is no-one dictating to me – I just want the best for the town."

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Tunbridge Wells:

2010	
Greg Clark (Con)	28,302 (56.2%)
David Hallas (Lib Dem)	12,726 (25.3%)
Gary Heather (Lab)	5,448 (10.8%)
Victor Webb (Ukip)	2,054 (4.1%)
Hazel Dawe (Green)	914 (1.8%)
Andrew McBride (BNP)	704 (1.4%)
Farel Bradbury (Independent)	172 (0.3%)
Majority 15,576 (31%)	

2005	
Greg Clark (Con)	21,083 (49.6%)
Laura Murphy (Lib Dem)	11,095 (26.1%)
Jacqui Jedrzejewski (Lab)	8,736 (20.6%)
Victor Webb (Ukip)	1,568 (3.7%)
Majority 9,988 (23.5%)	

HOPING FOR CHANGE: Independent candidate Graham Naismith



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Why are young still turning their back on the ballot box?

Molly Kersey tries to identify just why the 18 to 24-year-old age group seem to have become disengaged with the political process and how to win them back

WHEN the nation went to the polls in 2010 the majority of those aged between 18 to 24 opted to stay at home.

Call it an apathetic or disaffected youth, the scale of the decision was potentially enough to change the outcome of some seats, with 56 per cent of the age group choosing not to exercise their democratic right.

Yet it remains a significant issue. After all, this is the future generation. And as many from older age groups will no doubt testify, it is in your youth that many feel their political opinions take shape and a genuine passion develops.

All of which hints at a future where a clamour for the centre ground with identikit leaders may be far more damaging moving forward.

The problem that creates, of course, is that if they are not engaged, they miss out on having a voice - of shaping policies which will influence and impact on their lives.

Dr Mark Bennister is a senior lecturer in the school of psychology,

politics and sociology at Canterbury Christ Church University. He explained: "There are very few policies from all of the main parties directed at young people and it gets a bit self fulfilling.

"If they are assumed not to vote or to vote at low levels then parties are reluctant to target those groups because they need voters, whereas with older 50-plus and 60-plus age groups their voting rates are much higher, therefore you see more policies directed towards them.

"Policies like taking away the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) [funding for those on low incomes] from school age students, you don't get a massive backlash from that."

He added: "I know there are some reasonably strong feelings about politics and disillusionment. This could be largely due to broken promises regarding tuition fees."

The Liberal Democrats - and its leader Nick Clegg in particular - continue to display the scars of having to reverse a pre-election promise to not increase tuition fees.

"Another factor may be those who

are less engaged in formalised politics, so they are disillusioned with politics in general and have other outlets that are not recognised by the main parties," Dr Bennister adds.

And he thinks that parties need to do more to change this.

"Politicians need to do politics in a different way. It doesn't feel relevant to young people," he said.

"Unemployment rates are high for young people, tuition fees are high. This generation is in danger of being left behind by current politics.

"They need to find ways to re-energise politics. I think a start would be developing some real conversations with young people and not talking down to them but trying to understand what young people's concerns are."

Some 44 per cent of those aged between 18 to 24 voted in the last general election, which pales in comparison to the 76 per cent of over 65s.

Charmaine Jacobs, 18, is the vice president of East Kent College's Student Union.

The college recently benefitted from £10,000 funding from the Cabinet Office to hold events encouraging

students to make sure they are registered to vote.

This persuaded some 300 students to sign up from across the three college campuses in Folkestone, Dover and Broadstairs.

Ms Jacobs told KoS: "My belief is that when the politicians think about writing policies they are writing policies for those who are on the register and do vote.

"There's a lot of apathy and a lot of 'they don't do anything for young people' or 'my life's fine'. We are just trying to get the message across.

"Even if you just register it gives you power."

And Ms Jacobs is not alone in this view, with a number of social media and charity campaigns springing up all over the country to try and persuade young people to use their vote.

With the closing date to register to vote tomorrow (see page 7) time is now very much of the essence.

Because despite there being a low voter turn out, this isn't to say that young people don't care.

Research by youth volunteering charity Vinspired, who have started a



VOTE: EKC student ready to vote



INFLUENCE: Russell Brand

Swing The Vote campaign for young people, revealed that 80 per cent had campaigned on an issue.

However, many seem to struggle to translate a passion about political issues into a high voter turnout.

Comedian Russell Brand caused outrage when he outed himself as a non-voter and suggested more follow

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in his footsteps.

But his attitude is one that reverberated with many young people.

"Like him or not like him he draws a lot of young people into political activity. He's actually campaigning on a lot of issues, rather than being anti-politics which is how he's been portrayed," said Dr Bennett.

"His answer is - give people something positive to vote for and I will support it."

Ms Jacobs believes that children being taught more about the voting system in schools could also help to remedy this break in the chain.

"I think if you do start to engage people from a younger age it becomes part

of their awareness," she said. "I think it will definitely make a difference."

So with young people not feeling represented by the main parties, has the popularity of minor parties seen an increase?

"We are seeing a large rise in the membership of the Green Party, where there is growth it's around the

18 to 24s," said Dr Bennister.

Political commentator Iain Dale said: "I think young people are engaged in politics and I think the turn out with young people is going to be higher than it was last time."

"I think the Green Party might benefit from a high turn out among younger people because they tend to

be slightly more idealistic.

"I think there's actually a lot of support from young people among UkIP as well."


"A lot of politicians used to be in their 50s and 60s and now they tend to be younger, so you would think they ought to be able to relate to young people more."

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FACES: Fine of documents sheds light on the life of those who served during the First World War - and those that stayed at home.

Window into life during the war

Haul discovered of more than 400 letters and photographs sent from WW1 soldier serving 100 years ago

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HISTORICALLY-fascinating haul of First World War letters and documents that had been stored in a family home for the last 90 years has just come to light.

The haul of notes and personal messages include those from the front line during the Great War - and the responses from those back home.

Now the family who found it are making it available to the public and historians in hardback book form.

The archive comprises more than

400 personal letters, photos and documents covering the period from September 1915 to March 1919.

With such a research goldmine, the family now intend to give a series of talks and viewings of some of the archive material.

Aura Hargreaves told us: "Some 35 years ago, the Beckenham house I live in passed to me when my grandfather, David Taylor, died at the age of 92.

"He and my grandmother, May, had built the house just after the First World War [when the town, now part of the London borough of Bromley, was part of Kent] and my mother, their only child, grew up in the house.

"When we moved in and started clearing up, I found bundles of letters

in various drawers and cupboards and a quick look at them made me realise that they were personal letters from grandfather to grandmother, and hers to him, when he was a soldier in the First World War."

It was a very emotional moment for Mrs Hargreaves as she had a special relationship with her grandfather.

She said: "I was close to my grandfather and found reading them hard, so I just put them, and other letters and documents I found, all together in an old filing cabinet. About 25 years ago I had the idea of getting them published but got no interest from the publishers I approached.

"Then, last year, I thought that the 100-year anniversary of the start of the First World War was a good time to try again to get them published, and started work on digitising the letters into a readable format.

"It was not until I started work on the project last spring that I realised what an amazing archive we had. There are more than 400 personal letters; not just those from David to May and May to David, but from David's mother Fanny to his sister Ethel, who was known as Ginger and lived in the USA. These letters must have come back to England after the war.

"There are letters from Ethel to David, various letters from soldiers in David's platoon to Ethel thanking her for socks and cigarettes, letters from David's senior officers to his mother Fanny when he was missing after a big battle on the Western Front, a couple of letters from David's old headmaster at St Olave's to David, one or two letters from family friends to Fanny, and even a couple of letters to

May from the mother of a soldier in David's platoon who had been killed."

The sheer scale of communication is an insight into the time. Letters were the cheapest and easiest way to keep in touch 100 years ago.

Mrs Hargreaves added: "As well as the collection of letters, I found a variety of documents supporting the 'story' in the period between September 1915 and March 1919 when David was finally demobilised.

"These include various Army documents and forms, copies of book orders sent to David as a prisoner of war in Holzminden prisoner of war camp, and a number of postcards with pictures of war damage in France and Belgium.

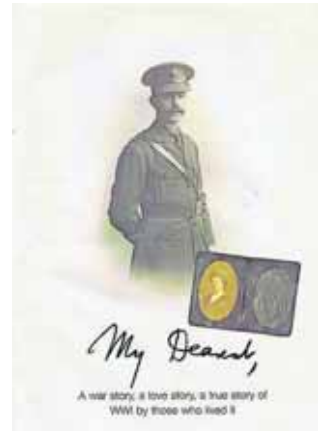
"We even have a couple of books and a picture that came back with David from Holzminden.

"We also have photographs of all the main correspondents, and David's sewing kit with his spare uniform buttons. Most of the letters are with their original envelopes, supporting the dates and locations, as well as providing evidence of the hand of the censors."

Mrs Hargreaves says there have also been a couple of historical discoveries from the letters, adding: "One of David's last letters mentioned that the Crystal Palace was used as an Army dispersal camp on demobilisation during March 1919.

"A member of the Crystal Palace Museum told me that, until this letter came to light, it was believed that the palace was only used by the Navy for training and not by the Army at all.

"The other discovery is the origin of the word 'banger' meaning sausage. When I was typing up the letter from David to May dated October 1, 1918,



BOOK: My Dearest is available in hardback form now

written in Holzminden in response to May's question about what they did about cooking, David's description made me realise that the word 'banger' had been invented in that prisoner of war camp. I did a search and it was thought that the word was first used in the Second World War. But David's letter clearly establishes that it originated in Holzminden camp in 1918."

She has now reproduced the whole archive in hardback book form with the title *My Dearest* and is now working on plans to create a website.

Mrs Hargreaves will give a talk in Bromley's Central Library on October 15 between 2pm and 3pm on the letters. There will also be a chance to see some of the documents.

Entry costs £3.50.



Concerns as French authorities open latest stage of 'Sangatte 2'

Chris Murphy on how migrants in Calais now have better facilities ahead of effort to enter our ports

ASITE for migrants passing through Calais, hoping to enter the UK through our ports, has opened - some 13 years after the last controversial enclosure was closed.

Already dubbed Sangatte 2, it offers basic protection for a limited number of women and children - and offers land for men to camp on alongside it.

The Jules Ferry Centre was built on the site of a former children's summer camp close to Calais and initially opened in January.

However, it was only this week overnight accommodation was offered. Facilities are limited. However, it does provide one hot meal a day and basic wash facilities.

Financed by a £3 million EU grant, it has been spearheaded by Natacha Bouchart, the mayor of Calais.

She has frequently called on the British authorities to take more responsibility for the number of those non-EU migrants moving up the Continent seeking to access the UK.

Many will risk their lives by seeking to stowaway on lorries or sneak on to cross-Channel ferries.

It is thought around 1,000 migrants currently live rough in and around Calais.

Folkestone Conservative MP Damian Collins is furious with the French authorities for continuing to allow these camps to develop, establish and grow.

Mr Collins said: "I think the more the French invest in the facilities in Calais, the more it does to attract migrants to go there."

"If they want to deal with the problem, then the French authorities need to intercept these people before they arrive in Calais."

"They also need to tell them to claim asylum at the point they enter the EU."

"That's what is required by the existing rules. So the French need to invest their efforts in stopping them arriving at Calais in the first place and stop this bottleneck from building up. Just investing in facilities when they get there is just making it worse."

Eurotunnel is just as frustrated by the camps still being there.

A spokesman said: "We don't think this new camp is a solution. In essence, this is a short-term solution because it has moved the migrants out of the camps that were popping up around Calais in a completely unmanaged way. It hasn't solved the issue of migrants coming to Calais, it hasn't solved the issue of intrusions and attempted intrusions to the port, so it's only ever going to be temporary."

"But really it is about solving the conditions of life in their country of origin, be-

cause that is what is driving them in to Europe in such vast numbers."

A spokesman for P&O Ferries said: "Years ago we could have told you how many stowaways we were finding in the back of trucks on a daily basis as we were doing the checks ourselves. But the Border Agency does the checks these days so they see the totals going up and down, not us."

The Home Office did not want to comment nor the Dover-based Migrant Help organisation.

The Calais Migrant Solidarity campaign group said: "UK immigration law makes it near impossible for the vast majority of non-nationals to enter the country, since you need a visa to do so, for which you need money and must satisfy a strict criteria."

"Unless you are already in the country on a visa, you cannot claim asylum from abroad. British law therefore necessitates illegal entry to the UK for almost all those who want to claim asylum."

"This forces migrants, most of whom have survived war or human rights violations - and many of whom are very young - to risk their lives making clandestine entries in or under the lorries that travel to the UK."

"People have died and countless others have been injured in this process."

WORRIES: Migrants in Calais are proving a problem for all concerned



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Cyclists bring town to standstill

More than 70 people jumped off their bikes to stage a protest in Tunbridge Wells this week over travel

TUNBRIDGE Wells town centre was brought to a standstill on Wednesday, as around 70 cyclists staged a lie-down protest by the war memorial next to the Town Hall.

The lycra-clad protestors - who made an unusual sight in the town - took the drastic action in order to spark a debate on 'getting the town moving'.

One of those who spearheaded the protest is Paul Mason (pictured right), the director of a local business and an avid cyclist.

He said that the campaign group which organised the protest - the Tunbridge Wells Bicycle Users Group - wasn't looking to go to war with motorists, but wanted town chiefs to consider a Holland-style system, with more facilities for those choosing pedal-power.

He told KoS: "There needs to be a radical change in approach for transport across the country.

"Instead of simply endlessly building roads, we need to think about how people are getting around, and ensure it's being done in the best way possible.

"Almost 70 per cent of journeys in Britain are under five miles. Most of those are done by car, and do you know why so many people choose to drive? It's because they're frightened by all the traffic."

That is what the group's campaign wants to change - this protest is just

the beginning according to Mr Mason. "We have fired the opening salvo in what's likely to be a sustained campaign," explained Mr Mason.

"It will be a question of changing attitudes, and working to ensure that we are winning people over.

"What it certainly is not is any kind of war on motorists; we aren't against drivers, we just want to ensure our towns and cities are safer and more attractive for cyclists."

Although it sounds like a simple objective, there are no magic cures for transport issues.

Mr Mason told KoS: "There are lots of different pieces to the puzzle. We need a combination of things really. We have to create safe infrastructure which enables people to go and use a bike. Slowing traffic down in city centres, creating dedicated cycle lanes on fast flowing roads, and working on making town centres more bike friendly can all help."

The cyclists only remained in the road with their bikes scattered atop them, for around five minutes

The protest mimics that of a campaign in Amsterdam in the 1970s called 'stop killing our children'. Its aim was to get decision makers to take cyclists seriously, and the bright idea worked, with Holland now slated as one of the most cyclist-friendly countries in the world, but it did take time.

Mr Mason said: "It took around 40 years for Holland to transform into



STOP: Cyclists lay down in centre of busy street. Picture: @maidstoneonbike

such a cyclist-friendly place, so we are under no illusion about how much work needs to be done to get the same here.

"We hope that we can bring about change in Tunbridge Wells, and then other places will see how it is, and they'll change too."



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Academics back Hillary in race for White House

If you thought the fight for Westminster was long-winded, then just take a look at the marathon across the Atlantic...

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING academic in the county has described Hillary Clinton's confirmation she would be standing in a bid to become the United States' first female president as having "all the excitement of letting a sleeping cat out of a clear plastic bag".

But Kent experts say they believe her chances of making it second time lucky in her bid to rule the White House stand a good chance.

In a move widely expected by political pundits, Mrs Clinton - wife of former president Bill - confirmed via Twitter this week she would be seeking the Democrat nomination.

She took part in the same race in 2008, but lost out in the complex American political party selection process to Barack Obama who went on to become the US' first black president.

Now she will embark on a grueling run-up to the selection process and a series of what are called primaries during which the eventual presidential candidate will be selected.

The American public don't actually go to the polls until November 2016.

Dr George Conyne, a lecturer in American history at the University of Kent, said the news was far from a surprise.

He said: "Ever since she retired from the post of secretary of state two years ago, all of her actions suggested this announcement was coming."

"In addition to the public acts of writing a second memoir and going on a book tour to promote it, speaking in states that are key to the party nomination and victory in the general election, and supporting candidates in the elections last autumn, she has been very carefully attending to a much more important series of functions."

"Since she left the State Department, she has been attending luncheons, dinners, receptions, galas, balls and other 'social' occasions as well as private meetings that she has used to gather up every last dollar that might possibly be given to any potential Democratic presidential candidate."

“She is much more dominant now than she was eight years ago. Right now, the sailing to the party nomination looks as clear as it can be.”

Dr George Conyne,
University of Kent academic

"She has had to do this, not only because her planned campaign needs the money but because she had to make sure that the available money did not go to other candidates."

"In the early stages of her attempt to capture the 2008 nomination she did not do this as well as she had to do. The result was that Senator Barack Obama raised \$23m in the first three months of 2007 which was almost as much she raised. Suddenly he was both a fresh face and a serious candidate and her campaign lost its position of unquestioned dominance. It was her first big mistake."

"As an extraordinarily intelligent politician, she hasn't made the same mistake twice, so that her extremely well-funded position is probably more dominant than it was eight years ago and she is less complacent."

"Obama was on her horizon then - there is nobody now. Right now, the sailing to the party nomination looks as clear as it can be."

"But her announcement of her candidacy had all the excitement of letting a sleeping cat out of a clear plastic bag."

It also flags up the fascinating political clash of dynasties as another Clinton seeks election, potentially running against Jeb Bush - brother of George W and son of George Bush; both former presidents.

Adds Dr Conyne: "Former Florida governor Jeb Bush is generally seen as the leader in a crowded field, but hasn't gained as broad support as he'd hoped. He appears to be leading in the fundraising race but, contrary to what a lot of people think, you need an attractive message to go with that money. American political history is



BID: Hillary Clinton

littered with wealthy candidates who failed because they did not have a popular message. So far, Bush hasn't coined that message. While he's the leader, his lead is far from secure."

"So if I had to bet £5 on the winner right now, I'd put it on Clinton, but I would not feel confident that I had a 'sure thing' - there's a long way to go in this one."

US presidents can only stand for two terms in the White House before having to make way for a replacement. The Democrat Barack Obama secured his two terms and will now stand down. His legacy is most likely to be one who failed to deliver on the enthusiasm and optimism he ushered in. However, he has been a firm hand on the world's strongest political power and helped ease the way on key political issues - most recently bringing Cuba back in from the cold.

Dr John Fitzgibbon, the senior lecturer in politics at Christ Church University, Canterbury, added: "She faces no significant opposition for the nomination from within the Democratic

Party, and barring some unforeseen event will be the party's candidate for the presidential election in November 2016. This is in contrast to the Republican Party where no real favourite has emerged among a crowded field of three confirmed and nine other potential candidates."

He points out there are major pros and cons to Mrs Clinton's already heightened public profile.

Dr Fitzgibbon said: "Hillary is by far the most high profile figure in the field. This has both positives and negatives for her. Positive in that people actually know who she is and so she does not have to spend money just to get her name out there."

"Negative, in that voters have already formed their opinions about her with a 50/50 split between favourable and unfavourable."

"At this very early stage Hillary has to be the favourite not just to win the Democratic nomination but to win the presidency as well. This is due to her high profile, strong support from the Democratic Party, huge financial

backing and an emerging sense that it is time for a woman to win."

Dr Matthew Jones, lecturer in political science at the University of Greenwich, added: "Since the 1960s, US politics has seen certain surnames, in particular Kennedy and Bush, reappear."

"Now to that list we can add Clinton. For a country that has constitutionally banned inherited power, certain surnames and familial ties do appear to be advantageous."

"Indeed, Jeb Bush has also publicly expressed an interest in running for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination."

"The 2016 US presidential election may result in it being a contest between Clinton and Bush. Whilst Chelsea Clinton has not publicly expressed an interest in pursuing a career in politics, her surname will certainly provide her with an advantage."

Bill Clinton was a hugely popular and charismatic American president, who served between 1993 to 2001.

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Could our fields run dry within 100 years?

It is arguably our most valuable and cherished resource, but the soil we use to grow our crops is beginning to show signs of decline. In this **special report** we look at the very real danger signs for a county built around a rural economy

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THERE are more living individual organisms in a tablespoon of soil than there are people on the Earth – and yet this precious resource has been treated, literally, like dirt.

And the outcome is that we are putting our county's enviable agricultural backbone at risk for the future.

That is the message coming out of the United Nations (UN), which has declared 2015 International Year of Soil in a bid to highlight the very real threat faced to the world's fertile grounds.

It has issued the terrifying threat that the declining quality of the Earth's soil means it can only support 60 more years of food growth.

For the county – known throughout the UK as the Garden of England – the warnings will be heard loud and clear, with our agricultural economy still such a key part of our communities.

Yet opinion remains fiercely divided over the scale and accuracy of the threat with one Kent farming expert describing it as “a load of rubbish”. Another says we'll be lucky if our fields remain potent in 100 years. But, globally, it is an issue which will not go away.

Naomi Rintoul, a lecturer in

soil management and environmental policy at Canterbury Christ Church University, explains: “It is the most important resource on the planet; 90 per cent of our food comes from it, and yet when we think about non-renewable resources, we only tend to think about fuels.

“People often don't think about soil or how complex it can be – or indeed, how essential it is to our survival. The current state of it means we are walking a tight rope – we need to take action now.”

The problem is down to soil loss, where soil physically moves, and degradation, where the nutrient quality of the soil drops.

Paul Cobb is the Kent representative for the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, an organisation that aims to work with farmers and land managers to encourage wildlife, to benefit soil and water resources and support farmland birds.

He says: “Loss can happen when there is nothing growing in the soil, so it's not able to withstand rain falling on it, or water running over it. This is a problem at the moment as we tend to get extreme rainfall events. When there are crops growing, they protect the surface, but once they

THREAT: Those involved in farming are becoming more alert to the dangers posed to the future of our fields

are harvested, and the field is empty, the soil is open to the elements.”

There are conditions that make that loss more likely to happen, for example, land on a steep slope means soil can get washed away more easily, or certain types of soil, the more sandy ones, can simply be washed away.

He adds: “It can also happen when it gets blown away by wind, but water is a bigger problem in Kent.”

Emma Tilston is a scientist at East Malling Research, a centre which conducts horticultural studies. She adds: “As with many environmental issues, the effects of natural phenomena are amplified by man's activities.

“With respect to soil loss, inappropriate soil management, such as ploughing up and down a slope, and cropping practices like leaving fields bare over winter are accelerating the removal of soil by wind and water.

“In the UK, 2.2 million tonnes of fertile topsoil are washed away by rainfall or blown away by the wind from our farm land, which has been estimated to cost British farmers £9 million a year in lost production.”

Degradation is another part of the issue. Dr Rintoul says: “This is the loss of nutrients from the soil. You need nutrients in soil to grow things. A good historical example

of degradation is the 1930s dustbowl in America, where large swathes of grassland were taken away and the land used for farming.”

During this period, farmers had used deep ploughing methods on topsoil on the Great Plains. The deep-rooted grasses that trapped soil and moisture were ripped up. While plants were harvested successfully for a couple of years, the lack of moisture in the soil meant that dustbowl were quickly created – an extreme example of how over farming of the land, using mechanised equipment – degraded the soil. The worry is that this kind of agricultural practice is causing similar damage on a global scale.

But Kent farmer Frank Langrish, who sits on the council for the National Farmers' Union, says: “Most of the problems come because of rainfall issues rather than farming practices – farmers don't want to lose their soil – it is literally their livelihoods.”

So why are these changes in soil so worrying for some experts?

According to Dr Tilston: “Even in the 21st century the majority of humans' food, fuel and fibre needs are reliant on the ‘ecosystem services’ performed by soil. If the Earth was the size of an apple, then the depth of soil that provides nutrients for plant growth, recycles dead things and filters and stores water would be less than half of the thickness of the skin. Reducing soil depth also means plant roots have less space to explore for soil and nutrients.”

And it is the removal of the top-most 20 cm in particular that's most worrying because that is where over 90 per

cent of the organisms that perform many of the ecosystem services can be found.

But before you panic that our fields will soon run dry in two generations, there is disagreement over the UN's 60-year prediction. Although not by much.

Dr Tilston says: “The UN statistic is undoubtedly thought-provoking and has received a lot of attention.

“It is an average for the world, so where farming practices are more damaging than average this figure could be as low as 20 years; but for countries such as the UK where farming practices are better than average the predicted life-span of soil productivity is slightly longer at 100 years.”

According to Dr Tilston, these estimates are far from scaremongering as they have been calculated by a number of eminent soil scientists working in prestigious universities and research institutes around the world, as well as by those working for reputable organisations such as the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP).

But Mr Cobb from the Campaign for the Farmed Environment is more cynical. “The 60 year prediction probably is slightly exaggerated,” he explained. “The problem is not widespread in all kinds of crop growing.”

Farmer Mr Langrish is more outspoken. “I think that's a load of rubbish,” he says. “I would not say it is a serious problem, although I would say it needs managing better as agriculture has changed. But what you have to remember is there are still large areas of land that aren't in pro-





duction.”

Dr Rintoul disagrees. “We can carry on as we are, and lose more farmland,” she says. “But it would be better to look at changing certain practices.

“Not over-ploughing soil would be better. Using sustainable manure is another way. Farmers used to leave some crops on the land they were harvesting. That way, they would decompose back into the soil, which is a better way than using man-made fertilisers.”

According to Dr Tilston: “Soil formation processes are very slow in relation to human life-spans, consequently soil should be considered to be a very precious nonrenewable resource.

“The reversal of the damage wrought on soil by the farming practices and demands of the last 100 years will require decades of effort by not only our children, but by our great grandchildren and many subsequent generations.”

This is because there is a huge challenge facing soil scientists, farmers, land managers, environmental regulators and policy makers, who must devise practicable systems and practices for the sustainable and secure production of food – but must do so as the global population increases, and with it, demands on agriculture.

She adds: “We have to protect our agricultural soils from further damage and repairing the existing damage.

“Sadly, there are no quick fixes, or easy answers to what is a very complex problem.”

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

Mr Cobb feels it is important that farmers are encouraged to look at husbandry solutions. He says: “We have been doing a lot of work with cover crops, which will help hold soil together and improve its resistance. We also want to see soil not being over-cultivated. I think there is a happy combination of new technology and old fashioned farming. Crop rotation and mixing arable farming with livestock grazing is good practice.”

Dr Rintoul wants to see more legislation put in place to enforce good practices, although she admits this is tricky. “We are looking at long-term solutions, which are hard to implement when you have governments that may only be in place for five years. We’re also looking at a global problem here, and it’s difficult to legislate internationally.”

There are already rules in place. “There is legislation in the form of the basic payment system that most farmers are part of, known as cross-compliance,” says Mr Cobb. “As part of this, they will avoid certain practices. However, as loss also comes from natural factors like rainfall, we feel it would be unfair to penalise farmers for this.

“There is a move away from ‘intensive farming’ where the earth is literally ground into submission.”

For Dr Rintoul, this development can’t come too soon. “We have a real uphill struggle,” she says. “And the longer it takes to put legislation in place, the harder it will be to solve the problem.”

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JOURNEY: Christopher's investigations take him on an adventure.

Credit: Brinkhoff M Genberg

Mystery of a murdered dog leads to incredible journey

The hit play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* comes to Kent

STANDING next to Mrs Shears' dead dog, which has been speared by a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion.

This is the basis of the National Theatre's multi-award winning production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, which will be making its Kent premiere at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, in May.

Adapted by Simon Stephens from Mark Haddon's best-selling book, the hit play tells the story of Christopher - who is trying to solve the mystery of who murdered dog Wellington.

The 15-year-old has an extraordinary brain, with exceptional maths skills but a struggle to interpret everyday life.

He detests being touched, doesn't

trust strangers and has never ventured beyond the end of his road before.

Christopher records each fact in a book that he is writing to try and work out what happened.

And his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his whole world.

The play includes Chris Ashby, Emmanuella Cole, Edward Grace and Lucas Hare.

Mr Stephens said: "The adaptation was a really joyful experience.

"I knew two things in adapting the play.

"I knew that the key to it was the relationship between Christopher and his teacher.

"Although it's not that central in the novel, what struck me was that everybody in life has a favourite teacher. Even people who hated

school, even people who found school a miserable experience, had one teacher who they loved more than others and thought got them in a way that other teachers didn't.

"I knew that if I could get that relationship right, then we could create an evening in the theatre that people could recognize themselves in.

"The other thing that I knew was that Marianne Elliott had to direct it.

"I think she's a visionary director, I think she's a director of extraordinary imagination, but she's also a very democratic director. This can't be a piece of theatre that alienates people. It has to be a piece of theatre that you can come to if you're 10 years old or if you're 90 years old."

Writer Mr Haddon added: "When I wrote *Curious Incident* I was

absolutely convinced that it couldn't be adapted for film or stage. The novel is one person's very insulated and sometimes profoundly mistaken view of the world.

"We're stuck inside Christopher's head from cover to cover. We see the world the way he sees the world. And there's the problem. Or so it seemed to me.

"Theatre is radically third person. You can infer what people are thinking but you can do so only from what they say and what they do.

"I simply couldn't imagine how Christopher's story could be told with any integrity in this way. Simon's genius was to recognise that I was completely and utterly wrong."

■ The show will run from May 12 to 23 and tickets start at £16.

To book call 01227 787787.

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EastEnders star Shane Richie signs up for hit pantomime run

by Molly Kersey
Molly.Kersey@archant.co.uk

EASTENDERS star and comedian Shane Richie will be starring in Dick Whittington at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

The popular TV name will be swapping Walford pub the Queen Vic for the leading role in the pantomime.

Best-known for playing the role of Alfie Moon in the BBC One soap, Mr Richie has been recognised with numerous awards - including the National Television Awards where he triumphed in the most popular actor category.

He has also recently fronted a new game Saturday evening game show called Win Your Wish List.

Mr Richie has combined his theatre and TV career with film roles including Porter in a Channel 4 film version of Macbeth.

He has also featured in the Dreamworks film Flushed Away alongside stars such as Hugh Jackman and Kate Winslet.

His West End credits include playing Danny Zuko in Grease and he has performed Boogie Nights The Musical.

Dick Whittington is produced by

Qdos Entertainment.

Michael Harrison, managing director of Qdos' pantomime division, is looking forward to Mr Richie's involvement in the panto season.

He said: "Shane is an outstanding comedy actor and we're absolutely delighted to have his immense talent at the Orchard this Christmas.

"Wherever Shane appears in pantomime tickets always sell quickly, so early booking is strongly advised."

Theatre director Chris Glover added: "Our panto is now one of the biggest and most popular in the south east with 95 per cent attendance for the last two years.

"We are excited that Shane Richie will be joining us this year and are confident that it will become another record-breaking production for Dartford."

The show will be opening at the Orchard on December 12 and it will be running until January 3, 2016.

Tickets for the show are available to purchase now. It is traditionally one of the biggest selling events in the theatre's calendar.

To book you can visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Alternatively you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000.



STAR: Shane Richie will be performing in Dick Whittington at The Orchard Theatre later this year.

Frank show in Canterbury

A show about family relationships will be performed at the Marlowe Studio on April 24.

Gods Are Fallen and All Safety Gone is presented by Greyscale.

Call 01227 787787 to book.



Let it Go at Leas Cliff Hall

A Sing-a-Long-a-Frozen event will be taking place at the Leas Cliff Hall on April 26.

It will involve a full screening of the film Frozen with lyrics on screen to help audiences sing along during the film.

Screenings are at 11am and 3pm.

Visit www.atgtickets.com to book.

Comedy star in Margate

COMEDY star Andy Hamilton will take to the stage with a brand new solo show.

He will be at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 25 at 7.30pm.

To book call 01843 292795.



Family fun in music show

ADAPTED from the book by Antony Penrose, The Boy Who Bit Picasso will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on May 2.

The interactive theatre show features music and storytelling and is suitable for everyone aged four to eight and their families.

To book call 01303 760750.

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Legend Jackson recreated

A new performance at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, will be recreating the Michael Jackson experience on May 4. Jackson Live will include hits Thriller, Beat It and Billie Jean. Call 01322 220000 to book.



History Boys take to stage

COMIC drama The History Boys will be performed at The Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from April 27 to May 2.

Set in the 1980s, it tells the story of a group of bright, funny and unruly sixth formers who are trying to secure a place at university.

Visit www.atgtickets.com to book.

Culinary chaos on stage

AN interactive children's show full of silliness and mischief will be at the Theatre Royal, Margate.

Signor Baffo's Restaurant, suitable for over fives, will be performed on May 23 at 2pm.



Soulful tunes come to life

MUSICAL comedy Sister Act will be coming to the Assembly Hall Theatre.

Based on the 1992 film, it tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, whose life takes a surprising turn when she is hidden in a convent after witnessing a crime.

It will be on stage from April 21 to 25.

Bake Off's Hollywood cooks up surprise visit

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

THE owners of a baking school that will soon be on TV screens across the county were thrilled when they received a surprise visit from a well-known chef.

Vicky Feldman, the founder of the Canterbury Baking School in Northgate, met TV chef and baking supremo Paul Hollywood when he dropped in to see the business.

The chef, who is well known as one of the judges on hit show The Great British Bake Off alongside Mary Berry, was in the area doing some filming when he popped in.

Mr Hollywood is also a native of Kent, living just outside of Canterbury in Wingham.

Mrs Feldman, who will be starring in a documentary, said: "Paul was in the area doing some filming and just dropped in."

"He sampled my bread and said some very kind things."

"He was very charming."

She added: "It was a huge surprise and marvellous to get his support."



The mother of five and local teacher founded the baking school in 2013.

The school runs fun and friendly workshops, catering for all levels of experience.

She is set to star in a programme which will be screened on BBC Two on May 10 at 10pm.

Mrs Feldman and her husband, furniture designer Barry, were selected as subjects for the show For Richer, For Poorer.

The documentary focuses on the impact on couples who are starting

and running new businesses in tough economic times.

Mr and Mrs Feldman are filmed successfully re-launching the business last summer and a number of the school's customers will also be featured in the programme.

Mrs Feldman said: "It was weird having a film maker with us for so long and I am a bit nervous about seeing the finished version of the documentary on Sunday."

"I never guessed that running the baking school would mean being on TV."



BAKING: You can catch the show on BBC Two on May 10



SUCCESS: The business was launched in 2013.

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Are superfoods what they are made out to be?

Lisa Salmon explores the health benefits of superfoods and asks how beneficial they actually are.

SUPERFOODS are as well known now as Superman was in the Seventies, and are credited by some with almost as much power as the legendary superhero himself.

While they won't give you powers of flight or the strength to chuck buses, nutrient-dense superfoods - such as pomegranate, coconut oil, kale and red cabbage - are so-called as they're believed to be ultra good for us, helping boost general health, super-charging the immune system, guarding our memories and keeping illness at bay, including cancers and heart disease.

While kale and cabbages have obviously been around for donkey's years, the term 'superfood' hasn't,

but when something is granted the impressive label, sales often soar. The amount of red cabbage bought in Britain last year grew by nearly 50% compared to the previous 12 months, spending on kale has doubled in the last five years, and sales of coconut oil in the UK has nearly tripled in just two years.

But are these so-called superfoods the dietary magic bullets they're made out to be?

No, says British Dietetic Association spokesperson, Kelly McCabe.

While agreeing that certain foods have indeed been reported to have cancer-protective effects and other health benefits, she stresses: "There's no such thing as a 'superfood'.

"No one food in isolation can have



HEALTHY: Humble things in our cupboards can have real benefits

a profound effect on our health, or provide all the nutrients we need. Instead, we should strive for a 'super-diet', which includes a wide range of these so-called superfoods."

Exotic-sounding and often pricey superfoods - such as goji berries, chia seeds and teff grains - may be in the headlines, and linked with health-conscious celebrities like Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow, but the truth is that many of the healthiest foods around can be found in the fridges and cupboards of ordinary folk.

"We forget all the humble things in our cupboards," says McCabe, a cancer specialist dietician.

"If I had to choose one food, I'd definitely choose an egg. It's our most easily digestible form of protein, and

it contains every vitamin and mineral that we require, with the exception of vitamin C.

"It's a nutritionally complete food - and a normal food we'd eat as part of our everyday diet, as opposed to goji berries, wheatgrass and chia seeds."

The other top ordinary superfoods are brightly-coloured fruit and vegetables, like tomatoes, carrots, beetroot and sweet potato.

"Think of the colours of your foods," says McCabe. "Phytochemicals are usually the pigments in the food, so the idea of eating the rainbow is based on science."

"Eating a large variety of different colours, even if they're everyday British foods, is what should be aimed for."

The Drifters on tour

THE Drifters will be making a return to the stage with their brand new Rebranded Tour.

The concert reflects on their success through the decades and the two hour show will feature both their hits and their lesser-known back catalogue songs.

They will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on June 18 at 7.30pm.

To book call 0844 871 3015.

Festival hits Maidstone

THE fifth Maidstone Fringe Festival will be taking place from April 30 to May 4.

It will be filling the town's pubs, clubs and music venues with live music from across a number of different genres.

Confirmed venues include The White Horse, The Art Lounge and The Flowerpot.

For more information visit www.maidstonefringefestival.co.uk.

Have your say on art

SITTINGBOURNE residents have been offered the opportunity to work with an international artist to create a new artwork for their community.

A public meeting on April 23 at UK Paper will see four artists present their ideas for a project to benefit the local community.

The public are invited to give their feedback, influencing which one goes ahead. The meeting will be held at 7pm.

Hazlitt does Full Monty

THE Full Monty will be at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on April 29.

Based on the blockbuster film, the musical tells the story of unemployed steel-worker Jerry, who decides to make some quick cash by putting on a strip show.

In the process, he manages to bring together an unlikely group of friends.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk to book.

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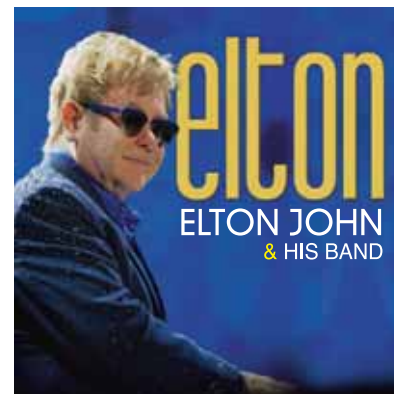
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Relentless city is unlike any other

TRAVEL REVIEW: Jakarta

by Andy Welch

JAKARTA is a relentless city.

Noisy, humid, with traffic in gridlock - the Indonesian capital, on the north-west island of Java, is like nowhere else.

And now Garuda Indonesia, the country's national airline, is flying there direct from London, with a touch down in Amsterdam, it's a city open to more visitors than ever before.

During the 1990s, Garuda didn't have the best reputation.

But thanks to a long break and new ownership, the airline has completely transformed.

From hitting rock bottom, it's now one of only seven five-star airlines in the world, and in 2013, was awarded World's Best Economy Class by Skytrax, providers of the industry's top global benchmark.

It's difficult to judge how far Soekarno-Hatta airport is from the centre of Jakarta.

Conservative estimates suggest an hour, although my journey takes more like three hours.

So bad is the traffic in Jakarta that lateness to appointments is not just tolerated but factored in.

During peak hours, the city almost completely comes to a standstill.

And there aren't many pavements, so walking is normally out of the question.

In light of this, Jakartans have decided the best way of getting from A to B is by scooter.

There are about seven million of the two-wheelers in the city, making every traffic light and junction look more like an off-road rally.

Tourists can hire scooters, but it's not the most relaxing way of getting around.

Instead, it's best to carefully plan



EXCITING: Indonesia is in transition as the result of a recent youthful boom.

what you're going to do and set off early.

One place you should visit is the Jakarta History Museum in the old town hall of Batavia.

It's a well-maintained colonial building dating back to the 17th century, when Jakarta was part of the Dutch empire.

It is as beautiful on the outside as it is interesting on the inside.

There are multiple ornate rooms

with maps, furnishings, weapons and artworks detailing the city's colourful past.

National Monument is another spot worthy of your time.

The monument, not unlike Nelson's Column in appearance, was built to recognise Indonesia's struggle for independence in the 1940s.

Here, you can sit, enjoy an ice-cold drink from one of the many vendors, and hopefully take in some rare quiet.

During my visit, there aren't many people around here at all, giving the place an oddly tranquil feel.

The Grand Indonesia Shopping Town is one of the largest malls in Asia, and whether you're looking to pick up some bargains and visit the high-end boutiques or not, it's worth seeing simply to experience how big and confusing a shopping centre can be.

Tradition is a big deal in Indonesia,

TRAVEL FACTS

■ Andy Welch was a guest of Garuda Indonesia.

They offer flights from London Gatwick to Jakarta five times a week.

Prices range from £528 for a return, per person, in economy class.

This includes a 30kg baggage allowance.

For more information you can visit www.garuda-indonesia.com.

and there are many sites explaining the country's rich and varied past.

But with a population of around 240 million, making it the world's fourth most populous country, and a staggering 50 per cent of the inhabitants aged below 30, the future is going to be infinitely more exciting.

As a result of that youthful boom, Indonesia is in transition from slightly creaking former colony to world-leading technology hub.

And as a stopover en route to the Indonesian islands or even Australia, it's quietly fascinating.

The Hermitage is among the most luxurious hotels in Jakarta, and is certainly one of the newest.

Despite a recent extensive renovation and extension, the beautiful art deco building contains many nods to its former existence as a government office, a school and a telephone exchange.

A swim in the open-air rooftop pool provides the perfect start to a day and soaking up the view at sunset, while sipping a gin and tonic, is about as relaxing as it gets.

The rooms, which are all marble and glass, are very tasteful and the food in the restaurant is second-to-none, catering for any taste.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



CINDERELLA (U, 113 mins) Fantasy/Romance

SLAVISHLY adapted from Disney's classic 1950 animated musical, Kenneth Branagh's live action version of the fairytale romance doesn't skimp on the period detail.

Sandy Powell's luxurious costumes, Dante Ferretti's opulent

set designs and Patrick Doyle's sweeping orchestral score conjure a magical world of unerring love in which even we gasp at the gargantuan splendour of the grand ball where the prince must choose his wife.

While this Cinderella unquestionably dazzles the senses, screenwriter Chris Weitz is shackled to fond memories of the hand-drawn film and consequently, he has almost no room for flourishes of originality.

The plot arc is predetermined, the ugly stepsisters don't hack off their heels or toes to squeeze into a misplaced glass slipper, and Helena Bonham Carter's fairy godmother isn't quite as eccentric as she or we would like as she engineers the film's best set-piece with a flick of her wand.

"I don't go transforming pumpkins for just anyone!" she chirps.

No, the special effects wizards

do and they accomplish the pivotal sequence with aplomb.

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT (12A, 119 mins) Sci Fi/Fantasy/Action/Thriller/Romance

ADAPTED from Veronica Roth's bestselling trilogy for young adults, Insurgent is a slickly engineered sequel that moves the dystopian narrative along at pace to a startling final revelation.

Robert Schwentke's action-packed film crams its visual pyrotechnics into the climactic 30 minutes when Shailene Woodley's heroine Tris must complete a series of tasks to prove that she possesses the qualities of all five factions: the selflessness of Abnegation, the courage of Dauntless, the honesty of Candor, the intelligence of Erudite and the inner peace of Amity.



Although it lacks the sustained visceral thrills and sense of jeopardy that distinguished the first film, Insurgent confidently lays the groundwork for a fraught journey back to humanity.

STILL ALICE (12A, 101 mins) Drama/Romance

JULIANNE Moore delivers an

Oscar-winning performance as a forty-something mother faced with an early diagnosis of Alzheimer's in Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland's heartfelt drama.

Based on the novel by Lisa Genova, Still Alice simply, yet powerfully, conveys the emotional devastation for the central character and the ripple effect for her family.

POTATO aficionados will now have their windowsills awash with trays, on which seed potatoes are being 'chitted', encouraging the sprouts to appear before planting begins in earnest.

While many of us have visions of digging up delicious spuds and cooking them immediately the soil's been wiped off them, sometimes in reality we have to tackle a fair few pests and diseases which can leave our potatoes mottled, mouldy or full of holes.

Potato blight is one of the most deadly diseases which can destroy your plants overnight.

It's caused by a *Phytophthora* fungus, *P. infestans*, which turns the stems brown and the leaves yellow, causing the plant to collapse. It is always fatal although you may save later crops by removing top growth as soon as the blight is spotted.

Blight generally starts from June onwards especially in warm, wet spells. The first signs are brown patches on the leaves and there is no treatment once the disease has taken hold.

To minimise the risk, follow a three or four-year crop rotation, never growing potatoes on the same piece of land more than once every four years, and earth up the plants regularly and deeply to protect the tubers.

Use copper-based fungicides during warm, damp spells as a preventative measure.

Alternatively, grow early potatoes which can usually be lifted before



BLIGHT: Pests and diseases that could threaten potatoes will need to be tackled to get the spuds you like.

The key to your perfect potato

blight strikes, or grow resistant cultivars such as 'Sarpo'.

Three of the most common threats to potatoes are pests - potato cyst eelworm, slugs and wireworm.

Eelworms are minute worm-like creatures which attack the roots, causing plants to wilt and present reddish-brown cysts on the roots.

You'll need to destroy all traces of

the affected crop and avoid growing potatoes in that spot for around eight years.

Slugs and snails can be a major problem on heavy, wet soil. Attacks begin in August.

Early lifting of maincrops may help reduce damage and slug pellets may help a little, although some slugs live permanently underground.

Collect slugs and snails after rain or in the evening on damp nights and dispose of them.

Other problems which may affect your crops include scab, a fungal disease in which scabs appear.

It is worse in light and limy soils but is only skin deep so won't affect your potatoes if you peel them.

The best way to deter it is to incor-

porate organic matter when planting potatoes but don't lime your soil.

To boost your chances of success, buy certified seed potatoes, work in plenty of organic matter on dry soil to retain moisture and help prevent scab and try the wide range of 'resistant' varieties on the market. Then hopefully when you harvest your crops you'll find the spuds you like.

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Lotus sheds are the final result of two years research and development by those who have been involved with light clad metal sheds for many years. A combined effort between a factory with brand new steel roll forming equipment and a research team have now produced a shed which is stronger, more durable, easier to build. This is, quite simply, a revolutionary development in the category of light clad metal sheds at a price that presents the best value available.

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If you are looking for something just that little bit different then why not choose our vibrant Lime Green 6 Piece Furniture Set (£119.99) or for total relaxation go online and check out the Gravity Reclining Sun Lounger, modern and comfortable and easily manoeuvrable, folds up to save space.

With furniture sets from two people to six seats there is something to suit almost everyone from your local online store.

After watering your garden with one of our many different type of hoses and other accessories you may want to have something which is more relaxing, why not look at our swinging hammocks? We have two seat and three seater hammocks available, complete with canopy so you are out of the sun and can swing your cares away whilst watching the kids play in the pool or enjoying a classic game like swing tennis and hop scotch plus more, which are also available.



Garden Living



Make the most of the sun and being in your garden this summer.

Whether you are looking to entertain or relax there are lots of ideas on our website so that you can enjoy yourselves.

The Multi-purpose fire pit (£64.99) helps keep you warm when the nights turn a little chilly but also doubles as a BBQ with a large cooking area, perfect for a family gathering or even a camping trip.

There are also other portable BBQ's that may suit you and don't forget your citronella to keep the insects away.

To make your garden look good enough to show off, browse our range of

power tools and hand tools to create that perfect look. We also have telescopic hand tools which are a great way to

help alleviate aches and pains from your hard work.

What else does your garden need to look good? Ornaments like the Garden planter with clock and thermometer (£29.95) are a great addition and would also make a great present for any fan of gardening.

Please look at the website to see our other garden décor.

After the work is done it's time to relax, the banana parasol (available in green terracotta or cream) offers shade from the rays, but we also have a range of other parasols starting from only £11.99 plus parasol bases.

There are also other luxury items available and in stock for next day delivery or collection.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

'Astonished' at homophobia

AS A heterosexual man, now married for 44 years, I have to say I was astonished when I read the letter from John Humphrey of Sevenoaks (KoS, letters, last week).

He seems to believe that much 'homophobic bullying' is perpetrated by people trying to force others to 'become gay'. What is more, he's seeking help to campaign on the issue.

He'd be better employed, helping to persuade people to have a more open mind about such issues and he could begin by endeavouring to answer the question:

As long as there are people in the world with blinkered views about homosexuality, who on Earth would 'choose to be gay'?

Christopher Hudson-Gool
 Maidstone

Southeastern's service too poor

YET another post-weekend engineering works Monday morning meltdown has severely disrupted the journeys to work and study of many Sevenoaks commuters, with the usual accompanying information systems failure.

Southeastern is deservedly dishing out vouchers to its staff who struggle to give accurate advice to disgruntled customers in such challenging situations.

But what about the plight of the hard-pressed commuters who also continue to suffer from the London Bridge chaos on a regular basis?

The Conservatives have belatedly called for a freeze in fare rises in real terms, just ahead of the general election.

But local Lib Dems have consistently advocated an actual reduction in fares paid from Sevenoaks, in recognition of above average increases seen over many years now, combined with the current additional stress and strain of travelling to London and back.

Surely the commuter deserves a much better service, lower ticket prices and Oyster extension, as well as more adequate compensation when things go badly wrong with their journeys.

Alan Bullion

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Examine just what motivates them...

IN reply to John Humphrey (KoS, letters, last week), I suggest he examine his own seeming homophobia rather than attempting to support gay 'cure' therapies.

These have been found to be completely useless in tackling what is in fact merely a natural sexual variation. Indeed, Dr Christian Jesson, a leading gay rights activist last year challenged American groups on TV programmes about this and found only evasion, denials, and no proof whatsoever of any effectiveness of the so-called 'cures'.

Personally, having grown up in the 1960s and 70s, I too felt that at the time I had 'unwanted' gay feelings; but it was only when I began to tackle my own internalised homophobia in the 1980s; derived from the usually religious inspired ignorance and bigotry extant then; that I felt far more comfortable in myself than before.

I also became active in campaigning for gay rights which further helped me become a now

happy middle-aged gay man. Indeed I suggest Mr Humphrey; and anyone else with such views; watch the recent excellent film 'Pride' which is based on a true story and covers 'coming out' alongside the main themes.

Finally, that the Sevenoaks schools have issued statements condemning homophobic bullying is very welcome; and indeed if any students say they are having problems with their sexuality, then they should be referred to a reputable counselling service which can help them to accept that part of themselves. Anyone experiencing homophobic abuse etc; as with all other such bigotry; should contact the police.

Sadly it is still true that there is work to be done regarding society in general; and religious groups in particular; to ensure everyone comes fully to terms with homosexuality, and indeed the whole range of sexuality issues.

Ray Duff
 Folkestone

Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate for Sevenoaks

Why is historic building going?

ONCE again Ashford Borough Council has decided to proceed with the destruction of another part of Ashford by knocking down the Art Nouveau building which stands on the corner of Station Road and Elwich Road. This despite it being in

a conservation area.

Quite how a new, modern college, to be built in its place, will fit into a conservation area has not been made clear. But the council and all those concerned do not seem too worried about that.

It was pointed out in the planning committee meeting that ground was available a short distance away, in Victoria Road, but this idea was turned down.

This idea would have saved what is an important and interesting building from destruction.

While it is not surprising that the council took the position that it did, it is surprising that the residents supported it too.

The saying is that the leopard cannot change its spots, but the council will soon be running out of things to knock down. Still, it does make you wonder what is next on the list.

John Walker,
 Ashford

Remembering Dreamland

SO they are re-opening Dreamland in Margate - what a legend that was.

Remember those heady, golden years during the 1970s and 1980s when it was at its height?

It was such an integral part of living in east Kent - who doesn't remember seeing the big wheel as you were driving into Margate and queuing for the rickety Scenic Railway?

It really summed up the magic of the great British seaside resort - so what if it was brash - isn't that part of the charm?

It was a growing up thing - meeting your mates on a summer afternoon and anticipating fun.

People have forgotten how good a holiday at a British seaside resort can be. This will boost the economy and provide jobs, so let's applaud this project.

Helen Smith,
 Deal

Debate over the housing crisis

THANK you for printing the response from Mr Davis of Teynham ('Housing will have to go on greenfields', KoS, letters 5.4).

While his comments are very interesting, I do recognise elements of some political know-how; but with an absence of how often legal definitions do change with alarming frequency to alter the status of 'issues at the time', and especially the use of land generally.

The majority of your readers will be unaware of "political definitions" and far too many thankfully for the KOS to print, it raises the difficult issue of what to print.

Perhaps KoS could consider posing the query to an Independent Planning Inspector and perhaps ask for examples of how the planning obligations, for example, have changed over the last ten years?

Brian Pearson,
 via email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise."

The way KoS will create our unique and

compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



South Foreland Lighthouse

by **Hannah Showler,**
East Langdon

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Pumping up BHF

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All monies raised are used to help our local communities in health issues concerning promoting a healthy heart and prolonging life.

Last year, Kent alone raised the fantastic amount of £2,362,000 to help fund life saving research.

Thank you for your continued support. In doing so you continue to help save lives and make a very real difference to people in our community.

There are plenty of ways you can get involved or simply gather vital information on how you can keep your heart healthy.

Our Heart helpline can answer your questions and our Heart Matters service offers free support and information for people looking to improve their heart health.

Or, of course, you can go online and visit the British Heart Foundation's website for further information and relevant contact details. Simply visit www.bhf.org.uk

We're always looking for good quality items to sell in our shops. You can drop off donations to your local shop or donation bank. You'll find a treasure trove of unique pre-loved, vintage and brand new furniture and electrical items with fresh stock on our sales floor every day.

If you have furniture and electrical items to donate, drop them off at your local store or book a free collection in your local area.



In Sittingbourne we have a furniture and electrical store - call 01795 334240 to contact. We also have an online shop on eBay for fantastic selection of British Heart Foundation goods and products to bid on.



Make a difference

FOSTER carers with KinderCare provide a nurturing and welcoming family environment through which the fostered child or young person can flourish and reach their full potential.

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The number of children coming into care has been increasing every year, but there are not enough foster carers able to give them a safe home, so more foster families are needed urgently to provide a warm and loving environment to vulnerable children in the community.

It is important that children who require care have foster carers who can meet their needs, so foster children are matched very closely with carers to help ensure that the

placement will be successful.

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So just who can be a foster carer?

There is no 'ideal type' of foster carer - each foster carer brings their own unique mixture of history, experiences, abilities and knowledge and uses them to help children and their families.

You will have a dedicated supervising social worker who will call and visit you, the opportunity to attend support groups and meet other carers, financial support in the form of a fostering allowance and regular training opportunities.

So if you can help, why not call us today on 0808 284 9554 or visit our website and register your details at www.kinderCare.co.uk or see our advertisement below.



Have you got room for one more memory?

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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RISING: Korean brand rejects evolution in favour of revolution as it catches up with western rivals through quality and style. i20 left, Tucson below and Santa Fe, above.



Hyundai continues to rise up through the ranks

HYUNDAI'S UK registrations hit a record 16,491 in March.

OK, it was a new reg plate month, but it's still impressive and not far behind well-established Toyota (19,148) and follows the Korean brand notching its best ever UK year with 82,159 registrations in 2014.

But it's only what I have been predicting: I continually marvel at what Hyundai and sister brand Kia have done in the past decade, achieving a revolution with each new model when western rivals are lucky to boast of evolution.

Yes, they had some catching up to do, but the race is really on now; and all this from a nation of 51 million, selling cars to a country of 65 million that somehow managed to trash one of the great motor industries of the world.

Even more impressive is that the Koreans expect to launch a new model every five years rather than the typical seven of European makers.

Which is why, with facelifts also taken in to account, the i10 city car – launched last year – will be Hyundai's oldest model come October.

Having just launched the elegant new i20 supermini – definitely a revolution over its, admittedly clunky predecessor – the brand will also introduce an impressive all-new Tucson later



this year.

Tucson, you might remember, was previously the name for the marque's rather average junior SUV but gave way to the ix35, a car that significantly raised Hyundai's profile in this sector and the market as a whole – a good reason to change a name.

But with the ix35 having done some impressive spade work, it seems it could be time to replace the Tucson name, especially as Hyundai already has a global SUV model name in the Santa Fe – a car that I rate highly against so-called premium rivals, and particularly in 4x4 format.

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Golf GTI set for latest blockbuster role

A hot hatchback that's a class act, the ever popular VW Golf GTI can impress the neighbours without being irritating. We take the latest model out for a spin.

VOLKSWAGEN'S Golf is like a blockbuster movie franchise, with a box office star - the racy GTI. The 1970s GTI original was an instant hit: a big seller and 'halo car' for everyday Golfs. Others jumped into the genre, launching a hot hatchback season then killed by spiralling insurance, social conscience and congestion.

And yet the latest GTI (from £26,580) transcends all this. Classier than any rival and styled for working weekdays or casual weekends, the GTI woos the opposite sex without shocking prospective in-laws, impresses the neighbours without irritating, and wows any cynical older driver.

Group 29 insurance within a scale of 50 is not outrageous either for a car that, even in 'basic' 220PS (218bhp) form hits 62mph in 6.5 seconds.

The current GTI is also one of the best ever to drive: it has well-weighted power steering and flatters any driver with its exceptional grip and flat stance.

Power to the front wheels from the turbocharged two-litre petrol engine is applied without fuss or alarm, and it growls appropriately at high revs, yet is otherwise quiet and refined.



Ride quality is also good for such a sporting car, with sensible real world average economy of around 40mpg and modest emissions.

In short, a rapid car that's easy to live with when modern driving is really a list of chores: stuck at the

lights, stewing in a jam, enduring a 50mph motorway limit while no work goes on behind those bloody cones and...best not to go on.

But when you reach a clear road, you can press on with a joy and security that makes a car like this worthwhile.



That said, I wouldn't specify the test car's six-speed DSG auto/manual gearbox (£1,400 extra). It might suit stop-start city traffic but, despite the high quality manual selection, it robs you of some involvement.

The Golf cabin is one of the best

VW Golf GTI 2.0 220PS DSG6 5-dr	
Price:	£28,650
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Focus ST

organised and the GTI gains nostalgic touches such as check fabric seat insets and red stitching, while Golf practicality is built in with good interior space and boot.

If it's a more sporting Golf than you really need though, check out the 140PS (138bhp) 1.4TSI ACT (from £23,195). It returns 58.9mpg on the official combined cycle - impressive for a petrol unit offering 0-62mph in 8.4 seconds.

This apparently contradictory mix of economy and sportiness is allowed by ACT - Active Cylinder Technology, which shuts down two of the engine's four cylinders when it senses the driver's right foot entering 'cruise mode' on an untroubled stretch of road. Such miserliness also makes you feel better about sometimes unleashing this cut-price GTI.

Flexible finance from Hyundai



i10 SE 1.0

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

Monthly Payments Of	£130	Total Amount of Credit	£7,815.34
Customer Deposit	£1,454.66	Interest Charges	£1,072.16
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£500	Total Amount Payable	£10,842.16
Total Deposit	£1,954.66	Optional Final Payment	£4,207.50
Cash Price of Vehicle	£9,770	Duration of Agreement	37 months

Representative APR %	5.9% APR
Fixed Interest Rate % p.a.	3.04%
Excess Mileage Charge Per Mile	14.9p
Annual Mileage	10,000

New Generation i20 SE 1.2

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

Monthly Payments Of	£178	Total Amount of Credit	£10,172
Customer Deposit	£1,803	Interest Charges	£1,366
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£750	Total Amount Payable	£14,091
Total Deposit	£2,553	Optional Final Payment	£5,130
Cash Price of Vehicle	£12,725	Duration of Agreement	37 months

Representative APR %	5.9% APR
Fixed Interest Rate % p.a.	3.04%
Excess Mileage Charge Per Mile	14.9p
Annual Mileage	10,000

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Fuel consumption MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 32.8 (8.6) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 25.2 (11.2) – 88.3 (3.2), CO₂ Emissions 261 – 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

YOU WILL NOT OWN THE VEHICLE UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS FINANCIAL PROMOTION, WE ARE A CREDIT BROKER (NOT A LENDER). WE CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF CAREFULLY SELECTED FINANCE PROVIDERS. WE MAY RECEIVE A COMMISSION FROM THEM FOR THE INTRODUCTION. Deposit from 0-40% available. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. Models shown: i10 SE 1.0 OTR at £9,770 in solid paint at no extra cost, New Generation i20 SE 1.2 5dr at £12,725 OTR in solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st April and 30th June 2015, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

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**Deputy Managers,
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Sessional Workers**

required in Herne Bay, Whitstable and Ramsgate

The **Deputy Manager** salary starts at c£19,500 plus supplementary allowance.
Experience required for this position.
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Previous applicants need not apply.

Benecare Children's Services

**Experienced
Registered Manager**

required for Residential Children's Homes, East Kent

We are looking for an experienced Registered Manager to join our dedicated team
The successful applicant will already be a Registered Manager and/or have previously passed an Ofsted fit persons interview.
He/she will also have experience in working within the EBD and LD client groups.
Salary will start at £25k dependent on qualifications and experience.
Please call **01227 751783/07710 145802** to make the most of this exciting opportunity.
<http://www.benecareltd.co.uk>



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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse - Ward - Ashford

Part time Hours: 30 per week Closing date: 30/04/2015

Salary: £23k-25k (pro rata), dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: **Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01233 616256**

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

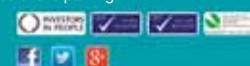
Alternatively, please contact **Justine Whittle, HR Assistant**

Telephone: **01304 245943** E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

Working for Spencer Private Hospitals:

Spencer Private Hospitals recognise and value all of their staff and are committed to developing a well-trained and flexible workforce. As an Investors in People accredited organisation, you can expect a generous holiday allowance, increasing with length of service, company contribution pension scheme, childcare vouchers, my work offers scheme, family and friends discounts on Physiotherapy and Health Screening services as well as uniform and free onsite parking.



Maths and English Lecturers

Salary: £23,518 to £37,773

MidKent College is expanding its maths and English team to inspire our post 16 students to be successful at all levels. We are establishing specialist maths and English centres with a team who are focused on improvement and excellence.

We are offering a 'Golden Hello' of up to £20,000, subject to qualifications and experience. In addition, the successful candidates will receive a generous benefits package and pension.

We are looking for outstanding and inspirational mathematicians and English teachers and recent graduates, who are able to deliver successful results through innovative teaching and learning.

If you are qualified to degree level in English, mathematics, or a related subject, and are keen to make a difference, we would like to hear from you. You will either have experience in teaching maths/English to at least GCSE level or be a recent graduate with a teaching qualification who is ready to take on your first challenge.

The College will be hosting an open afternoon/evening on Thursday, 30th April 2015 and an open morning on Wednesday, 6th May 2015.

For an informal discussion please contact **Lindsey Morgan, Assistant Principal on 01634 383119**.

Please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack or visit www.midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: **11 May 2015**



MidKent College

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"We grow people"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

**We are currently looking for a
Speech and Language Therapist**

to join and enhance our high calibre team on a maternity cover contract commencing September 2015
Medway Scale, Grade B2

£27,924 - £35,662 pro rata (37 hours per week - term time only)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and effective Speech and Language Therapist, with a professional, flexible approach and a good sense of humour. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting and who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. Experience and dysphagia training desirable.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Speech and Language Therapy degree/qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount, and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted

Closing Date: 8th May 2015
Interviews: 18th May 2015

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"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

TEACHER

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2015

MPS/UPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,587 (TLR with previous experience)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic?

Abbey Court School is currently located in pleasant surroundings on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery & Primary) and Strood (Secondary & Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.

The school has educational resources of enviable proportions and has been judged 'outstanding' in the last 2 Ofsted inspections.

This post would suit newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 1st May 2015

Interviews: 12th May 2015

For further details and a job description, please contact
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road,
Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236),
stating the position for which you are applying.

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Public Sector

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011:-

1. from 19 June to 16 July 2015 on Mondays to Fridays inclusive between 9am and 4pm any person interested on application to the Finance Director, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS may inspect and make copies of the accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating thereto; and

2. on or after 17 July 2015 until the completion of the audit, the District Auditor, Darren Wells, Grant Thornton, The Explorer Building, Fleming Way, Crawley, RN10 9GT at the request of any local government elector for the area to which the accounts relate, will give the elector or their representative an opportunity to question him about the accounts, and any such elector or representative may attend before the Auditor and make objection to any of the accounts. No objection shall be made by or on behalf of a local government elector unless the District Auditor has previously received written notice of the proposed objection and of the grounds on which it is to be made. Where an elector sends a notice to the Auditor for this purpose they shall at the same time send a copy of the notice to the Council.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Finance Director (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

April 2015



**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Notice of application for renewal
of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to
Schedule 3
Local Government (Miscellaneous
Provisions) Act 1982**

TAKE NOTICE that on 17th April 2015 Emma Sexton applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 20.30 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 20.30- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 15th May 2015

Name: Emma Sexton

Organisation: Players,
Address: 57, High Street,
MAIDSTONE
KENT ME14 1SY

Date: 17th April 2014

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Notice of application for transfer
of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to
Schedule 3
Local Government (Miscellaneous
Provisions) Act 1982**

TAKE NOTICE that on 16th April 2015 Emma Sexton applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the transfer of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 20.30 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 20.30- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 14th May 2015

Name: Emma Sexton

Organisation: Players,
Address: 57, High Street,
MAIDSTONE
KENT ME14 1SY

Date: 16th April 2014

**Goods Vehicle
Operator's Licence**

MR G STEVENS and MRS N STEVENS trading as Drayhorse Shires of Drayhorse Farm, Faversham Road, Challock, Kent TN25 4BG is applying for a licence to use Drayhorse Farm, Faversham Road, Challock, Kent TN25 4BG as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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LONDON RESORT COMPANY HOLDINGS LTD

SECTION 48, PLANNING ACT 2008

**REGULATION 4, INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
 (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE)
 REGULATIONS 2009**

**LONDON PARAMOUNT ENTERTAINMENT RESORT
 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER**

**NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A
 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO")**

Notice is hereby given that London Resort Company Holdings Ltd ("LRCH") of 17 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4HP intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the above mentioned DCO ("the proposed application").

The proposed application for the London Paramount Entertainment Resort project ("the Resort") which will be located on the Swanscombe Peninsula in the County of Kent, in the District of Dartford and the District of Gravesend, will be a nationally significant visitor attraction and leisure resort comprising a leisure core up to 50 ha in area, themed around the films and television programmes of Paramount Pictures, and currently including (but not limited to) the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Aardman Animations.

The Resort core will include—

- events spaces, rides, attractions, day-time and night-time shows and parades, entertainment venues, cinemas, theatres and nightclubs;
- ancillary food and beverage, retail, back of house/service and guest service facilities;
- hotel rooms as a part of a total provision of up to 5,000 hotel bedrooms across the Resort development as a whole;
- associated car parking as part of a maximum provision of 14,000 spaces; and
- hard and soft landscaping including amenity water features such as ponds and canals.

The proposed Resort development also includes the following principal elements—

- the creation of a visitor entrance square;
- the creation of a range of hotels, a water park and a transport interchange at the visitor entrance square;
- the construction of a new dual carriageway access road approximately 2.8 kilometres in length, between the A2(T)/B259 junction, and the Resort development area;
- the provision of a transport interchange at Ebbsfleet International Station, pedestrian facilities from London Road to the River Thames; pedestrian facilities and cycle track route along the Thames Path route; enhancements to the existing jetty on the River Thames to facilitate access by boat for the delivery of construction materials, and the creation of a floating pontoon for embarkment and disembarkment of visitors;
- the creation of a conference and exhibition event space;
- the creation of a creative business hub and office space for the creative industries;
- the creation of a green zone to include areas of environmental enhancement and wildlife habitat creation beside the River Thames;
- the provision of waste management, power generation and power distribution facilities;
- the enhancement of flood defence works; and
- the provision of ancillary emergency and security features.

The proposed Resort is "EIA development" for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009. This means that the proposed works constitute development for which an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required. LRCH's proposed application for a DCO will, therefore, be accompanied by an Environmental Statement, containing the information about the environmental effects of the proposed development.

The documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed application, including information so far compiled about environmental impacts (preliminary environmental information), may be inspected free of charge from **Monday 27 April 2015 to Friday 5 June 2015** at the locations and times set out below:

Venue	Opening hours
DARTFORD	
Dartford Council Offices Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:45am–5:15pm Friday: 8:45am–4:45pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council Council Offices, The Grove, Kent DA10 0GA	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9:30am–1pm & 1:45pm–4pm Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Community Café Old Fire Station Café, Church Road, Swanscombe, Kent DA10 0HF	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am–2pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Greenhithe Library London Road, Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9EJ	Tuesday & Thursday: 1pm–5:30pm Saturday: 9:30am–12:30pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday: Closed
Swan Valley Library Swanscombe Library Discovery Centre, Ebbsfleet Academy, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0BZ	Monday, Tuesday & Saturday: 10am–2pm Wednesday & Friday: 1pm–5pm Thursday & Sunday: Closed

Venue	Opening hours
Longfield Library 49 Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7QT	Tuesday & Friday: 1pm–6pm Wednesday & Thursday: 9am–1pm Saturday 10am–2pm Monday & Sunday: Closed
Dartford Library Central Park, Market Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1EU	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:30am–6pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
Temple Hill Library Temple Hill Square, Dartford, Kent DA1 5HY	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–6pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
Ashen Drive Library Ashen Drive, Dartford, Kent DA1 3LY	Monday & Thursday: 2pm–6pm Tuesday & Friday: 9am–1pm Saturday: 10am–12pm Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
Fleetdown Library Swaledale Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JZ	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9:30am–5:30pm Wednesday: 1:30pm–5:30pm Saturday: 10am–12pm Monday & Sunday: Closed
Sutton-at-Hone Library Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone, Dartford, Kent DA4 9HQ	Monday & Friday: 10am–6pm Tuesday & Saturday: 10am–2pm Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday: Closed
Summerhouse Drive Library 80 Summerhouse, Bexley, Kent DA6 2EE	Tuesday & Thursday: 9am–6pm Friday: 2pm–6pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Monday, Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
GRAVESHAM	
Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre and Gateway, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–5pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Coldharbour Library Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 8AE	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–6pm Tuesday: 9am–8pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
Gravesend Library Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BE	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–6pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
Dashwood Library Dashwood Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LY	Monday & Friday: 9:30am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Tuesday & Saturday: 2pm–5pm Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday: Closed
Higham Library Villa Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent ME3 7BS	Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–1pm Tuesday & Thursday: 2pm–5:30pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Sunday: Closed
Hive House Library Hive House, 10-11 The Hive, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 9DE	Monday & Tuesday: 9am–12:30pm Thursday & Friday: 2pm–5pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
King's Farm Library Sun Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5HR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–5pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Thursday & Sunday: Closed
Marling Cross Library 266 Mackenzie Way, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5TY	Tuesday: 9:30am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Thursday: 9:30am–1pm Friday: 2pm–5pm Saturday: 2pm–4pm Monday, Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
Meopham Library Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0AH	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–6pm Saturday: 9am–1pm Wednesday & Sunday: Closed
Riverview Park Library The Alma, Leander Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4NG	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–6pm Saturday: 10am–2pm Thursday & Sunday: Closed

Venue	Opening hours
Vigo Library Village Hall, The Bay, Vigo, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0TD	Tuesday: 11am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Saturday: 9:30am–2:30pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday: Closed
KENT (Maidstone)	
Kent County Council County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am–5pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Maidstone Library Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LQ	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–6pm Thursday: 9am–8pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
SEVENOAKS	
Sevenoaks Library Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LQ	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–6pm Thursday: 9am–8pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
TONBRIDGE & MALLING	
Tonbridge Library 1 Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1TG	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am–6pm Thursday: 9am–8pm Saturday: 9am–5pm Sunday: Closed
THURROCK	
Grays Central Library Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays, Essex RM17 5DX	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10am–7pm Friday & Saturday: 10am–5pm Sunday: Closed
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY	
Central Library Townley Road, Bexleyheath DA6 7HJ	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am–5:30pm Thursday: 10am–7pm Friday & Saturday: 10am–1pm Sunday: 1pm–5pm
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY	
Central Library High Street, Bromley BR1 1EX	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:30am–6pm Thursday: 9:30am–8pm Saturday: 9:30am–5pm Sunday: Closed
MEDWAY	
Medway Council Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am–4pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Project information may continue to be updated until Friday 8 May 2015 and you are therefore advised to check the website www.londonparamount.info and deposit locations for such updates.

Copies of the documents, plans and maps will be available on LRCH's website at www.londonparamount.info from **Monday 27 April 2015**. They can also be provided on request by emailing consultation@londonparamount.info, by calling the **freephone number 0800 008 6765** Mondays to Fridays between 9am and 5.30pm or by writing to **FREEPOST Ref: RTRB-LUJ-AGBY, London Paramount, c/o PPS Group, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE**. A reasonable copying charge will apply (up to a maximum of £300 for the full suite of documents). The documents can also be obtained on a DVD, free of charge, by contacting LRCH as detailed here.

LRCH is consulting on the proposed application. Any representations on the proposals should be made in writing to "FREEPOST Ref: RTRB-LUJ-AGBY, London Paramount, c/o PPS Group, Sky Light City Tower, 50 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5DE", sent by email to consultation@londonparamount.info, or by completing the feedback form which can be found on the LRCH's website at www.londonparamount.info. The deadline for receiving responses is **Friday 5 June 2015**. Please quote "London Paramount Entertainment Resort Order" in any correspondence.

LRCH requests that responses state the grounds of representation, indicate who is making it, and provide an address to which any correspondence relating to the representation may be sent.

We may be required to make copies of representations available to the Secretary of State. We will, however, request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal details will be held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of the Project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

Bircham Dyson Bell LLP
 Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents acting for LRCH
 50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL

12 April 2015

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Kent look for win during Essex trip

Batsman Bell-Drummond says county set for good season



KENT: The team are optimistic about promotion this season

Picture: ADY KERRY

Cricket

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

KENT County Cricket Club gets the season underway with a trip to Essex today (April 19).

This year, the team are hopeful they can rise out of the LV= County Championship second division and find promotion.

CEO of the club, Jamie Clifford told KoS that while they were looking to forge a path out of the division, they would be starting the season with a tough match against Essex.

"I'd hope we can go up this season.

At this stage of the year, we're upbeat, but then so is everyone else, as we're all unbeaten," explained Clifford.

He continued: "We're optimistic though; the club's in good shape and we just can't wait to get started. We're at the point where we just want to get going.

"I don't think we've got too much to fear from any of the sides out there this year. We rather fancy a trip up to Essex to start off the season, and I think we can do well."

One of the team's rising stars, Daniel Bell-Drummond told KoS that he was upbeat going into the game.

The 21-year-old right handed batsman said: "It's great to start with Essex, as they're a very strong team. The game will allow us to really test

ourselves, as a squad, as Essex look they'll be up there for promotion at the end of the season."

Bell-Drummond says one of the reasons for his confidence is the squad's depth of experience.

He said: "The key is that the blend of the team is brilliant, because we've got the senior guys like Nash, Key and Stevens, and the younger guys who are being shepherded along and perform well themselves.

"That means the balance is perfect, whereas a couple of seasons ago, there was a massive divide between the 18-year-olds and the older guys on the team.

"Coupled with the fact that Joe and Colesy have come back, we're in for brilliant times at Kent."

Shakey Byrne back in the saddle at Brands

SITTINGBOURNE based British Superbike rider, Shane 'Shakey' Byrne has got nothing left to prove.

But that doesn't mean that when he hits the track at Brands Hatch this weekend, he won't be looking for a win.

"It makes me angry when people ask whether I'm going to retire," says the four time MCE Insurance BSB champion.

He continues: "I love riding, and every day I wake up wanting to compete and wanting to win.

"I won't be thinking about retiring until that passion for racing is gone. This is my dream, I'm doing exactly what I want to."

The rider made history last year, becoming the only man to take four of the BSB championship crowns, and already he's looking to add to his trophy collection.



CHAMP: Shakey leads the pack in the season's opener at Donington

But this season didn't begin well, when he took a tumble while pushing his bike hard during pre-season

testing in Almeria, Spain.

"I had to spend so much time getting myself well after the crash, that I didn't have time to get myself fully physically fit.

"When I walked away from the first session at Donington with a win and a second place, it just left me brimming with confidence."

That result at Donington Park has spurred him on, and now he knows what he can accomplish - even when he's not at full strength - he's going all out for Brands this weekend.

"I'm looking forward to my home round and doing the best job I possibly can to get the PBM Kawasaki back up on the podium.

"It's great at Brands, as being my home circuit, I to get more friends and family able to turn out to watch me race which means there's a really excellent atmosphere."

Hawkins set for centre stage at championship

THE first round of the World Snooker Championship 2015 gets underway in Sheffield this weekend, with Kent player Barry Hawkins looking to improve on recent poor form.

The Ditton based player's first tie sees him take to the table today (April 19) against world number 30 Mark Selby.

With Selby's recent form - which has seen him elevated to his highest ever ranking - it could be a tough match for Hawkins, despite his current ranking of fifth.

It will be just the second time Selby has made it to the Crucible, and he has form for crumbling under pressure, after his first round game against Mark Selby fell apart last time he was in the tournament in 2013.

Hawkins, on the other hand, has solid experience of playing in front of the cameras, with many big matches under his belt. He made the semi-final in last year's world championships, eventually losing to the rocket, Ronnie O'Sullivan.

He'll hope to go one better this year.



BARRY: Looking to fire in a few
Pic: Larry Wedley Photograph



DARTS: Not singing anymore after poor season sees them go down

Darts relegated after lacklustre season

RELEGATION beckons for Dartford FC, after it became a mathematical impossibility the team could avoid going down.

The Darts took the tumble following Welling United's 2-1 win over Wrexham at Park View Road.

It is the second straight season the club has finished in the drop zone. They were saved last year only by

the withdrawal of another team.

The relegation caps a poor season for Dartford, with just eight wins throughout.

However, the club insists it will keep faith with manager Tony Burman who is also a director at Princes Park, with executives insisted his job remains safe despite the disappointment.

Fleet's play off hopes slip away

EBBSFLEET United's play-off hopes were finally dashed on Tuesday night as they slipped to defeat against mid-table Bath City.

The Fleet only had a slim chance of making the final five when they travelled to Twerton Park, but with a tightly grouped bunch near the play-off mark, hope remained.

The 2-1 loss now means the Fleet are guaranteed to remain in the Conference South.

Manager Jamie Day is already looking to the future, talking about adding new players to the squad over the summer.

He said: "We'll add a bit of quality where we think it's needed."

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12 12	Vauxhall Astra 1.6 VVT 16v SRi	18,144 miles	£10,560
11 61	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v SR	23,909 miles	£9,575
13 13	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v SR	7,805 miles	£11,588
12 12	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	17,348 miles	£9,900
12 62	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	14,447 miles	£10,000
13 13	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	12,279 miles	£10,500
14 64	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo	205 miles	£14,000
13 13	Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.6 i Turbo	11,808 miles	£11,796
13 13	Vauxhall Astra 1.2 i 16v SE	3d 17,650 miles	£7,700
12 12	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i 16v SE	5d 36,438 miles	£7,000
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i Energy	3d 8,596 miles	£7,500
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Energy	5dr 16,466 miles	£7,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 15,304 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 13,895 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 13,648 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,839 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,475 miles	£8,967
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 12,163 miles	£8,967
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14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,765 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,828 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,872 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 11,622 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE	5d 8,965 miles	£9,200
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 10,494 miles	£9,000
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 8,406 miles	£9,100
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	3 3,416 miles	£9,344
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SRI	5 9,981 miles	£9,144
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 15,595 miles	£8,635
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 13,852 miles	£8,694
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 12,963 miles	£8,724
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 11,811 miles	£8,764
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 9,765 miles	£8,825
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	3 8,258 miles	£8,881
13 13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 11,947 miles	£7,699
13 63	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 14,871 miles	£7,700
14 14	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi	5 10,694 miles	£8,500
11 61	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v	40,563 miles	£10,600
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	19,737 miles	£14,000
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	15,010 miles	£14,288
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	15,161 miles	£15,773
14 14	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco	16,664 miles	£15,982
12 62	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi 16v T	20,451 miles	£10,339
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	17,667 miles	£15,982
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	16,905 miles	£16,000
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	15,441 miles	£16,000
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,951 miles	£16,122
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,654 miles	£16,132
14 14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi eco	14,253 miles	£16,253
09 09	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i 16v Desi	45,555 miles	£6,655
10 60	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	57,760 miles	£6,598
12 62	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	19,015 miles	£8,767
12 12	Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v	6,194 miles	£9,670
11 61	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi eco	FL 33,443 miles	£9,000
13 13	Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v	9,823 miles	£11,717

Chevrolet			
11 61	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 i LT 5dr	29,477 miles	£6,400
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	29,366 miles	£5,700
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	28,591 miles	£5,800
13 13	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5dr	28,667 miles	£5,800
11 61	Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1	15,326 miles	£9,300
12 62	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTI Exc	9,303 miles	£9,800
11 61	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 H	24,964 miles	£11,400
Dacia			
14 14	Dacia Duster 1.5 dCi Laureate	16,769 miles	£10,700
14 14	Dacia Duster 1.5 dCi Laureate	12,145 miles	£10,900
Fiat			
13 13	Fiat 500 0.9 TwinAir S 3dr	(st 28,309 miles)	£8,800
Ford			
13 13	Ford B-Max 1.4 Zetec 5dr	4,325 miles	£10,000
13 63	Ford B-Max 1.6 Zetec Powershift	3,004 miles	£11,500
14 14	Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec 5dr	13,581 miles	£11,700
12 12	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3dr	3,773 miles	£8,400
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 19,068 miles	£9,400
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 5,352 miles	£9,500
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 5,803 miles	£9,500
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 27,119 miles	£9,600
12 12	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	5d 15,310 miles	£9,800
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec	Po 8,172 miles	£9,500
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec Powershift	11,009 miles	£8,400
Hyundai			
12 62	Hyundai i10 1.2 Style 5dr	36,678 miles	£6,000
14 14	Hyundai i20 1.2 Style 5dr	3,510 miles	£9,200
14 14	Hyundai i30 1.4 Active 5dr	1,706 miles	£9,700
12 12	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDI 16v Style	19,795 miles	£11,900
12 62	Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDI 16v Style	8,446 miles	£13,200
13 13	Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi 16v Prem	26,977 miles	£15,300
Kia			
12 12	Kia Cee'd 1.6 CRDi EcoDynamics	27,400 miles	£7,500
12 12	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 2 2WD	5d 29,845 miles	£15,200
11 61	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 2 2WD	5d 71,479 miles	£13,600
12 62	Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 3 2WD	5d 14,567 miles	£17,000
MINI			
14 64	MINI Hatch Cooper 1.5 (s/s) Co	1,000 miles	£17,900
Peugeot			
11 61	Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi FAP Allure	13,490 miles	£8,400
11 61	Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDi FAP Activ	20,279 miles	£9,900
12 12	Peugeot Partner Tepee 1.6 HDi	14,315 miles	£8,600
Renault			
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	16,761 miles	£12,600
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	15,520 miles	£12,700
14 14	Renault Captur 1.5dCi MediaNav	13,968 miles	£12,800
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	20,632 miles	£8,700
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	18,523 miles	£8,700
13 63	Renault Clio 1.2 (MediaNav) Dy	16,426 miles	£8,800
11 61	Renault Clio 1.2 16v I-Music	3 22,474 miles	£5,400
Seat			
11 61	Seat Ibiza 1.4 Sportrider 5dr	22,248 miles	£6,700
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr	(star 24,682 miles)	£10,900
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr	(star 28,846 miles)	£11,000
13 63	Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE 5dr	(star 22,198 miles)	£11,000
Subaru			
14 64	Subaru Forester 2.0 i XE Linea	1,001 miles	£23,916
14 64	Subaru Outback 2.0 D SX Linear	2,000 miles	£25,000
14 64	Subaru XV 2.0 D SE Premium	5dr 1,300 miles	£21,700
Suzuki			
14 14	Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr	(Na 11,402 miles)	£11,200
Volvo			
11 61	Volvo S40 2.0 SE Lux 4dr	25,619 miles	£8,700
11 61	Volvo S40 2.0 SE Lux 4dr	26,514 miles	£8,800

Audi			
12 12	Audi A1 1.6 TDI Sport Sportback	25,437 miles	£13,900
12 62	Audi A3 1.6 TDI SE 3dr	22,179 miles	£15,400
12 12	Audi A5 2.0 TFSI S Line 3dr	34,733 miles	£20,600
10 60	Audi A5 2.0 TFSI Sportback 5dr	36,360 miles	£11,600
BMW			
13 63	BMW 1 Series 1.6 114d Urban Sp	7,592 miles	£17,300
13 63	BMW 1 Series 1.6 114i Sport Sp	9,995 miles	£14,200
14 14	BMW 1 Series 2.0 116d Sport Sp	2,447 miles	£16,600
11 11	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	30,177 miles	£14,500
11 61	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	30,124 miles	£15,000
11 61	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118d M Sport	17,996 miles	£15,000
12 12	BMW 1 Series 2.0 120d M Sport	32,333 miles	£16,400
12 12	BMW 3 Series 2.0 318i SE 2dr	12,011 miles	£16,100
Land Rover			
11 61	Land Rover Range Rover Sport	3 24,702 miles	£34,500
Infiniti			
12 62	Infiniti M 3.5 V6 GT Premium	4 17,364 miles	£22,600
13 63	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium	4d 10,637 miles	£20,800
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium	4d 3,100 miles	£22,000
14 14	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium	4d 3,465 miles	£26,000
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium	4d 3,254 miles	£27,400
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium	4d 2,076 miles	£27,600
14 64	Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Sport	4dr 3,885 miles	£27,000
14 14	Infiniti Q50 3.5 S Hybrid AWD	8,785 miles	£34,900
14 64	Infiniti Q70 3.5 GT ADR Hybrid	1,001 miles	£29,000
14 14	Infiniti QX70 3.0 TD S AWD	5dr 10,016 miles	£34,300
MG			
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	2,563 miles	£7,600
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,086 miles	£7,600
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,001 miles	£8,000
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Form Spor	1,754 miles	£8,000
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style 5dr	2,500 miles	£8,500
14 64	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style 5dr	1,001 miles	£8,500
14 14	MG MG3 1.5 VTI-Tech 3Style Lux	2,500 miles	£8,200
Nissan			
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	49,427 miles	£10,700
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	13,910 miles	£11,400
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	14,271 miles	£11,800
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	24,861 miles	£11,800
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	8,394 miles	£12,000
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	23,213 miles	£12,300
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	15,679 miles	£12,400
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	11,880 miles	£12,600
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	7,504 miles	£12,800
14 64	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	5,968 miles	£17,100
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Visia 5dr	19,798 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Visia 5dr	6,677 miles	£10,900
12 62	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 4,448 miles	£10,200
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 15,744 miles	£10,500
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	5 5,927 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 (s/s) Acenta	P 12,076 miles	£11,400
12 12	Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Pre	26,069 miles	£10,600
13 13	Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5dr	18,396 miles	£9,600
12 62	Nissan Note 1.4 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	8,443 miles	£7,800
11 61	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr	16,398 miles	£7,400
11 61	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec 5dr	30,418 miles	£6,000
13 13	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	5,900 miles	£8,300
13 13	Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr	3,731 miles	£8,400
14 14	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta	7,936 miles	£17,400
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec	5 33,185 miles	£13,200
12 12	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec	5 19,026 miles	£13,900
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5dr	15,118 miles	£11,200
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12 62	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 dCi N-Tec+	21,795 miles	£14,800
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Acenta 5dr	20,532 miles	£13,300
11 61	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 N-Tec+ 5dr	39,891 miles	£13,600
09 09	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Tekna 5dr	30,867 miles	£10,000
11 61	Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 Acenta 5d	22,307 miles	£12,000
11 61	Nissan Qashqai+2 2.0 dCi Tekna	50,296 miles	£17,100

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